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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

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CONTENTS

	Paragraphs	Page
ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS		iii
INTRODUCTION	1	1
CHAPTERS		
I. MATTERS CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION	2 - 3	1
A. Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council	2	1
B. Issues brought to the attention of the Council	3	3
II. WORK OF THE COMMISSION DURING THE PERIOD 6 MAY 1994 TO 3 MAY 1995	4 - 126	9
A. Activities of subsidiary organs	4	9
B. Other activities	5 - 107	9
C. Relations with other United Nations programmes	108 - 126	27
III. THIRTIETH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION AND TWENTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS	127 - 243	33
A. Attendance and organization of work	127 - 134	33
B. Agenda	135	34
C. Account of proceedings	136 - 243	34
IV. RESOLUTIONS, SPECIAL MEMORANDUM AND DECLARATION ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS AT ITS TWENTY-FIRST MEETING		47
V. FINAL COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS AT ITS TWENTY-FIRST MEETING	244 - 265	71
ANNEXES		
I. REPORT OF THE SIXTEENTH MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (24-28 APRIL 1995 AS ADOPTED BY THE THIRTIETH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION/TWENTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS		75
II. MEETINGS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES HELD DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW (6 MAY 1994 - 3 MAY 1995)		95
III. LIST OF DOCUMENTS		97

CEPGL	Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries
CERPOD	Centre d'études et de recherche sur la population pour le développement
CGA	Commission of Geodesy for Africa
CILSS	Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel
CIRDAFRICA	Centre for Integrated Rural Development in Africa
CODESRIA	Council for the Development of Economic and Social Research in Africa
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CPC	Committee for Programme Coordination
CRTO	Regional Remote Sensing Centre, Ouagadougou
CRTK	Regional Remote Sensing Centre, Kinshasa
CRTNA	Regional Remote Sensing Centre for North African States
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DESIPA	Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis
DIESA	Department of International Economic and Social Affairs
DPCSD	Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development
DTCD	Department of Technical Cooperation for Development
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECA-MRAG	Multidisciplinary Regional Advisory Group
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECDC	Economic cooperation among developing countries
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council of the United Nations
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EDF	European Development Fund
EDI	Economic Development Institute of the World Bank
EIB	European Investment Bank
ESADIS	East and Southern African Development Information System
ESAMI	Eastern and Southern African Management Institute
ESAMRDC	Eastern and Southern African Mineral Resources Development Centre
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
EU	European Union
EUROSTAT	Statistical Office of the European Communities
FACC	Federation of African Chambers of Commerce
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FAVDO	Forum of African Voluntary Development Organizations
FEMNET	African Women's Development and Communications Network
FRD	Foundation for Research and Development
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GCA	Global Coalition for Africa
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GSP	Generalized System of Preferences
GTZ	German Technical Assistance Programme
IAC	Inter-African Committee
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IAOS	International Association for Official Statistics
IAWGD	Inter-agency Working Group on Desertification
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ICC	International Chamber of Commerce
ICID	International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage
ICIPE	International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology
ICM	Intergovernmental Committee for Migration
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDA	International Development Association
IDB	Islamic Development Bank
IDDA	Industrial Development Decade for Africa
IDEP	African Institute for Economic Development and Planning
IDNDR	International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction
IDRC	International Development Research Centre of Canada

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AAAS	American Association for the Advancement of Science
AAC	African Association of Cartography
AACHD	African Advisory Committee on Health Development
AAF-SAP	African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-economic Recovery and Transformation
AAPAM	African Association for Public Administration and Management
AAPSO	Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization
AAS	African Academy of Sciences
AATPO	Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations
AAU	Association of African Universities
ACABQ	Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions
ACARTSOD	African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development
ACBF	African Capacity Building Foundation
ACC	Administrative Committee on Coordination
ACCIS	Advisory Council on the Coordination of Information Systems
ACMAD	African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development
ACMS	African Centre for Monetary Studies
ACO	African Curriculum Organization
ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific Group
ADB	African Development Bank
AEC	African Economic Community
AFMESA	Association of Food Marketing Enterprises in Eastern and Southern Africa
AFRAND	African Foundation for Research and Development
AFREXIM	African Export-Import Bank
AFSA	African Statistical Association
AGRIS	Agricultural Information System
AHSCP	African Household Survey Capability Programme
AIDF	African Industrial Development Fund
AIHTTR	African Institute for Higher Technical Training and Research
ALO	Arab Labour Organization
AfMF	African Monetary Fund
AMCEN	African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
AMU	Arab Maghreb Union
ANSTI	African Network of Science and Technology Institutes
AOAD	Arab Organization for Agricultural Development
AOCRS	African Organization for Cartography and Remote Sensing
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
APPER	Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery
ARCC	Africa Regional Coordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development
ARCEDEM	African Regional Centre for Engineering, Design and Manufacturing
ARCSE	African Regional Centre for Solar Energy
ARCT	African Regional Centre for Technology
ARI	African Rehabilitation Institute for Disabled Persons
ARSC	African Remote Sensing Council
ARSO	African Regional Organization for Standardization
ARSP	African Remote Sensing Programme
ASTIS	African Science and Technology Information System
ATPSN	African Technology Policy Studies Network
BADEA	Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa
BCEAC	Banque centrale des Etats de l'Afrique centrale
BCEAO	Central Bank of West African States
BDGEL	Banque de développement des Etats des Grands Lacs
BOAD	West African Development Bank
CADIS	Central African Development Information System
CAF	Commission for Africa of the World Tourism Organization
CAFRAD	African Centre for Administrative Training and Research for Development
CAMRDC	Central African Mineral Resources Development Centre
CDI	Centre for Development of Industry
CDP	Committee for Development Planning
CEAO	West African Economic Community

IDWSSD	International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFORD	Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques
IGADD	Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development
IGOs	Intergovernmental organizations
IHO	International Hydrographic Organization
ILCA	International Livestock Centre for Africa
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
INSTRAW	United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women
IOC	Indian Ocean Commission
IOI	International Ocean Institute
IOMAC	Indian Ocean Marine Affairs Cooperation
IPPF	International Planned Parenthood Federation
ISI	International Statistical Institute
ITC	International Trade Centre
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
IUSSP	International Union for the Scientific Study of Population
JASPA	Jobs and Skills Programme for Africa
JIU	Joint Inspection Unit
KBO	Kagera Basin Organization
LAS	League of Arab States
LCBC	Lake Chad Basin Commission
LDCs	Least developed countries
MINEDAF	Conférence des ministres de l'éducation nationale d'Afrique
MULPOC	Multinational Programming and Operational Centre
NACP	National Accounts Capability Programme
NADIS	North African Development Information System
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Area
NATCAPs	National Technical Cooperation Assessments and Programmes
NBA	Niger Basin Authority
NESDA	Network for Environment and Sustainable Development in Africa
NGOs	Non-governmental organizations
OAU	Organization of African Unity
ODA	Official development assistance
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OMVG	Organization for the Development of the Gambia River
OMVS	Organization for the Development of the Senegal River
PADIS	Pan-African Development Information System
PANA	Pan-African News Agency
PANAFTEL	Pan-African Telecommunications Network
PTA	Preferential Trade Area of Eastern and Southern African States
RANDFORUM	Research and Development Forum for Science-led Development in Africa
RASCOM	Regional African Satellite Communications System
RASDS	Regional Advisory Service in Demographic Statistics
RBA	Regional Bureau for Africa (UNDP)
RBASEP	Regional Bureau for Arab States and European Programmes
RCNYO	Regional Commissions New York Office
RCSSMRS	Regional Centre for Services in Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing
RECTAS	Regional Centre for Training in Aerospace Surveys
RIPS	Regional Institute for Population Studies
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SADCC	Southern African Development Coordination Conference
SAPs	Structural adjustment programmes
SAPAM	Special Action Programme for Administration and Management in Africa
SDI	Selective Dissemination of Information
SIAO	Salon international du tourisme et de l'artisanat d'Ouagadougou
SSTAP	Sub-Saharan Africa Transport Programme
STPA	Statistical Training Programme for Africa
SWMTEP	System-wide Medium-term Environment Programme
TCDC	Technical cooperation among developing countries
TEPCOW	Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole
TNCs	Transnational corporations
TOKTEN	Transfer of Knowledge through Expatriate Nationals

TTS	Technical support teams of the United Nations Population Fund
UAR	Union of African Railways
UDEAC	Central African Customs and Economic Union
UNAFRI	United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNCHS	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
UNCSDHA	United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs
UNCSTD	United Nations Centre for Science and Technology for Development
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNCTC	United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations
UNDCP	United Nations Drug Control Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRO	United Nations Disaster Relief Organization
UNEDIFACT	United Nations Rules for Electronic Data Interchange for Aministration, Commerce and Transport
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UN-IATF	United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UN-NADAF	United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s
UN-OSCAL-DPCSD	Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and Least Developed Countries of the United Nations
UN-PAAERD	United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development
UNSO	United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office
UNTACDA	United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa
UNTFAD	United Nations Trust Fund for African Development
UNTNA	Union of National Radio and Television Organizations in Africa
UNU	United Nations University
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WADIS	West African Development Information System
WEC	World Energy Council
WFC	World Food Council
WFP	World Food Programme
WFTU	World Federation of Trade Unions
WHO	World Health Organization
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization
WTO	World Tourism Organization

INTRODUCTION

1. The present annual report of the Economic Commission for Africa covers the period 6 May 1994 to 3 May 1995. It has been prepared in accordance with paragraph 18 of the Commission's terms of reference and was adopted by the Commission on 3 May 1995.

CHAPTER I

I. MATTERS CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

A. *Matters calling for action by the Council*

2. At the thirtieth session of the Commission/-twenty-first meeting of the Conference of Ministers responsible for economic and social development and planning, held in Addis Ababa from 1 to 3 May 1995, the Commission approved the following resolutions and recommendation for action by the Council:

Draft resolution 1

804 (XXX). *Implementation of phase II of the programme for the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (UNTACDA II)*

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.91/84 of February 1991 by which it adopted the programme for the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, 1991-2000 (UNTACDA II),

Referring to United Nations General Assembly resolution 46/456 of 20 December 1991 launching the implementation of the Decade programme and decision 48/455 of 21 December 1993 on additional resources for the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa,

Recalling also Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.93/89 of 13 March 1993 on implementation of the programme of UNTACDA II work programme,

Having considered the mid-term evaluation of the Decade and the action programme derived therefrom,

Reaffirming the continued relevance and critical importance of UNTACDA II, especially towards achieving the goals of the Abuja Treaty (1991) establishing the African Economic Community,

Noting with concern in particular the low level of programme implementation due to the lack of resources,

Recalling that new projects to be proposed for inclusion in the Decade programme should conform to the principles and the criteria already adopted and be submitted to the executing agencies, specifying, among other things:

(a) The time-frame for implementation,

(b) Resource requirements, availability and prospective sources, and

(c) The description and assignment of tasks among the various partners,

1. Urges member States to make every effort to implement the Decade programme by undertaking, inter alia, the following specific activities:

(a) Facilitating and encouraging national co-ordinating committee activities by providing them with the necessary human and financial resources to enable them to accomplish their assigned tasks;

(b) According priority to national projects which contribute to the achievement of Decade objectives;

(c) Coordinating and strengthening national efforts in fund-raising so as to be able to access regional IPFs from such sources as the Lomé Convention for the implementation of the Decade programme;

(d) Taking into account the environmental impact of all transport and communications development projects;

2. Invites member States and intergovernmental organizations to involve the subregional and subsectoral working groups in the design of regional action programmes concerning transport and communications and provide them with every assistance necessary for participating effectively in the implementation of the UNTACDA II programme;

3. Requests intergovernmental organizations to take active part in the UNTACDA II programme by carrying out in their regular work programme activities listed in the UNTACDA II programme with priority given to those that make for regional integration;

4. *Requests* the United Nations Development Programme to increase the level of its support to UNTACDA II by funding part of the regional action programme for the implementation of the second phase of the UNTACDA II programme;

5. *Invites* all donors to contribute further to the implementation of the programme approved by the tenth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport and Communications;

6. *Further requests* the United Nations General Assembly to provide additional resources within the regular budget of the Economic Commission for Africa to enable it to pursue the major activities of the Decade action programme within its regular budget;

7. *Further requests* the African, Caribbean and Pacific "Coordinating" Ministers of the European Development Fund to give the appropriate priority to the Decade projects and programmes in the preparation of their national and regional indicative programmes under the second financial protocol of the Lomé IV Convention;

8. *Further calls upon* the development banks and participating financial institutions to continue to work with the UNTACDA II programme machinery to provide coordinated and efficient support to the development of transport and communications in Africa;

9. *Finally appeals* to the World Bank to maintain a high level of involvement in and contribution to the implementation of the UNTACDA II programme;

10. *Especially requests* African financial institutions to provide further support to the UNTACDA II programme, particularly by taking systematically into account the guidelines and priorities of the Decade in the preparation of the action plans for African countries;

11. *Further requests* the subsectoral working groups to initiate such regional action as would provide a framework for intervention by those countries which plan to commercialize or privatize their transport and communications sector;

12. *Decides* that the Resource Mobilization Committee shall henceforth be known as the UNTACDA II Advisory Committee on Programme Promotion and adopts its terms of reference as laid down in the report of the tenth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport and Communications;

13. *Also requests* the UNTACDA II Advisory Committee on Programme Promotion to lay emphasis on assistance to member countries in seeking, arranging and mobilizing funds for projects approved under the UNTACDA II programme;

14. *Appeals* to all financial institutions that are members of the Advisory Committee to play a more active role in the efforts geared to supporting the Committee's mission by providing it with the required technical expertise;

15. *Requests* the subsectoral groups to assist in the evaluation of projects falling within their areas of competence, coordination and integration of the Africa regional work programme of the United Nations specialized agencies with those of UNTACDA II;

16. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to:

(a) Disseminate systematically among all UNTACDA II partners information on the implementation of the Decade through workshops, seminars, symposia, other fora and information bulletins;

(b) Play a far more active role in coordinating the UNTACDA II programme and strengthen its own capacity to provide the necessary technical backstopping in support of programme implementation;

(c) Ensure that future evaluations of the implementation of UNTACDA II are based on a critical analysis of the degree to which Decade objectives have been achieved;

(d) Prepare a consolidated report on the status of implementation of all UNTACDA II projects using reports drafted by member States and intergovernmental organizations on the situation with regard to the status of their projects.

Draft resolution II

807 (XXX). *Programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1996-1997*[2]

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and subsequent relevant resolutions on programme planning,

Recalling further its resolutions 728 (XXVII) and 769 (XXVIII) on restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields, and in particular strengthening the role of the Economic Commission for Africa to provide team leadership in addressing the region's development challenges and for enhancing its impact,

Reaffirming that measures to improve the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the secretariat and to improve the planning, programming and budgeting process as called for by General Assembly resolution 47/212, would significantly contribute to enhancing the effectiveness of the Commission in dealing with the development challenges facing the African region,

Conscious of the importance of the ongoing reform measures on the effectiveness of the United Nations resulting from General Assembly resolution 46/235 on the basis of which resources and activities have been decentralized from Headquarters to the Economic Commission for Africa during the 1994-1995 biennium,

Having examined the proposed programme of work and priorities of the biennium 1996-1997 contained in document E/ECA/CM.21/12,

Taking note of the new organizational structure which, among other things, is aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of the Commission,

Appreciative of the redeployment of resources to the Commission's regular programme for technical cooperation to enhance the multidisciplinary regional advisory services it renders to member States,

Noting with appreciation the grant made available to the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, significantly contributing to the operational capacity of the Commission,

1. Endorses the proposed programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1996-1997;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure, through the Administrative Committee on Coordination, that United Nations programmes and activities for the African region are coordinated and harmonized for cost-effectiveness, synergy and greater impact;

3. Urges the Secretary-General of the United Nations in making his proposals for the 1996-1997 programme budget to take into consideration the special development needs of the African region, by stressing the need to make available to the Commission adequate resources to enable it fully carry out those activities under programme 30: Regional cooperation for development in Africa and programme 45: African critical economic situation, recovery and development, in particular subprogramme 2 on monitoring, assessment, and follow-up of the implementation of action programmes, including their financial aspects;

4. Urgently appeals to the General Assembly to convert the grant to the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning to established core posts in the regular budget as called for in Economic and Social Council resolutions 1992/85 and 1993/68;

5. Appeals to the Committee for Programme and Coordination to consider these proposals favourably at its forthcoming session, and recommend, through the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session in July 1995, their adoption by the General Assembly at its fiftieth session;

6. Calls upon the General Assembly and its Second and Fifth Committees to take all necessary actions to ensure that adequate resources are made available to the Commission for the implementation of this work programme;

7. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to endeavour to maintain and strengthen the cohesion of the programme of technical cooperation, especially at the implementation level.

B. *Matters brought to the attention of the Council*

3. The Conference of Ministers responsible for economic and social development and planning also adopted the resolutions and declaration summarized below:

Resolution 794 (XXX). *Implementation of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community: Harmonization, rationalization and strengthening of regional economic communities*

The Conference of Ministers considered the report on the implementation of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community and called upon member States, regional and subregional economic communities to initiate a programme of rationalization and harmonization of trade liberalization policies in each subregional space through the progressive unification of trade rules. It also called upon the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Secretary General of the Organization of African Unity and the President of African Development Bank to provide every support, including the commissioning of required studies, to the subregional economic communities in the planning, formulation and implementation of their rationalization programme and the establishment of indigenous resource mobilization mechanisms for the financing of integration. The Conference of Ministers further called upon the United Nations Development Programme and other donor agencies to provide assistance for the financing of studies and activities that need to be conducted in the implementation of this programme.

Resolution 795 (XXX). *Building Africa's information highway*

Cognizant of the need to promote cooperation in exchange for information in support of the African Economic Community as well as development efforts at the national, subregional and regional levels, the Conference of Ministers recognized the need for African countries to develop information networks for full Internet connectivity to enable them to have the same access to information that the rest of the world now enjoys. It appreciated the joint effort of the Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Telecommunication Union and the International Development Research Centre in organizing the first African Regional Symposium on Telematics for Development in Addis Ababa in April 1995. The Conference noted with satisfaction the performance of the Economic Commission for Africa's programme activities on information systems development in the delivery of technical assistance to member States. It further noted with satisfaction the assistance of the International Development Research Centre and other donors in promoting the Information Age in Africa. The Conference of Ministers called upon member States to promote the exchange of experiences with a view to assisting each other in speedily establishing their national information networks and requested the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to set up a high-level working group on information technologies and communications in Africa, to mobilize the financial resources necessary for the operations of the aforementioned working group and to report on the implementation of this resolution to the next Conference of Ministers.

Resolution 796 (XXX). *Technical cooperation among developing countries*

Having deliberated at length on issues relating to the need for capacity building and utilization in Africa, the Conference of Ministers decided to include the issue of technical cooperation among African countries in the agenda of its next meeting and requested the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, in cooperation with the Secretary General of the Organization of African Unity and the President of the African Development Bank, as well as the chief executives of the regional economic communities, to conduct a study on technical cooperation among African countries and to report to the next Conference of Ministers.

Resolution 797 (XXX). *Accelerated implementation of the Programme of Action in the African least developed countries during the second half of the 1990s*

Deeply concerned at the continuing deterioration in the socio-economic situation of the African least developed countries, the Conference of Ministers reaffirmed that the least developed countries have the primary responsibility for the formulation and effective implementation of national policies and priorities for their growth and development and requested the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to intensify its efforts in regional coordination with respect to international and regionally focused programmes and special measures in favour of the least developed and land-locked countries, to follow up and monitor the implementation of the Paris Declaration and Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s. The Conference of Ministers further requested the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to transmit the Commission's document evaluating the progress achieved by the African least developed countries in the implementation of the Programme of Action and the Special Memorandum on the Mid-term Global Review to the Permanent Representatives of African Missions to the United Nations at Geneva and New York through the Chairpersons of the African Groups and Chairman of the G77, as Africa's contribution to the global review process and to report on the implementation of this resolution to the next Conference of Ministers.

Resolution 798 (XXX). *Promotion of private investment in Africa*

Conscious of the importance of private investment to growth and development of African countries, the Conference of Ministers noted with satisfaction the commitment of African countries to carrying out the necessary reforms, adopting appropriate policies and creating the institutional framework and machinery that would attract private investments. It invited Africa's development partners to extend every necessary support for improving investment conditions for both domestic and foreign investors; implementing comprehensive debt-relief programmes; supporting the efforts of African countries to improve and enhance their financial intermediation capabilities and participate actively in the promotional activities of African countries. The Conference of Ministers requested the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Secretary General of the Organization of African Unity, the Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the President of the African Development Bank and the World Bank Group to provide African countries with the technical and financial assistance they need to promote private sector and private investment.

African countries and development partners were invited to attend and participate in the regional forum on private investment in Africa to be held in Accra, Ghana, in November 1995.

Resolution 799 (XXX). *Promoting human development in Africa*

Aware of the primacy of the human being in the development process and of the need to focus the development endeavours of Africa on human development, and deeply concerned over the persistently deplorable human development situation prevailing on the continent, the Conference of Ministers commended the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa for its initiative in launching the series of reports on human development in Africa. It urged member States and Africa's development partners to support fully this initiative and to make use of this report. The Conference of Ministers requested the Executive Secretary to submit a report every two years to the Conference of African Ministers responsible for Human Development and its Follow-up Committee of Fifteen.

Resolution 800 (XXX). *Strategy and Action Plan for Water Resources Assessment, Development and Management in Africa*

Recognizing the frequent recurrence of drought in Africa and the negative effects it has on food production and availability of water and aware that water resources assessment and development contribute significantly to the socio-economic development of Africa in general and to agricultural development in particular, the Conference of Ministers highly appreciated the existing cooperation and collaboration between the World Meteorological Organization and the Economic Commission for Africa. It urged member States to adopt the strategy and plan of action and use it in implementing their programmes of water resources assessment, development and management; to initiate actions to develop and strengthen management and technical capabilities. The Conference called upon Africa's development partners to incorporate the strategy and plan of action in their programmes of assistance for water resources assessment; promote this strategy and plan of action for water resources assessment in Africa and requested the Economic Commission for Africa to cooperate with the World Meteorological Organization in its support to African countries.

Resolution 801 (XXX). *Food security and self-sufficiency in Africa*

The Conference of Ministers considered the report on the situation of food and agriculture production, especially in the context of food security and self-sufficiency in Africa. It was deeply concerned at the continuing deterioration of the food and agriculture situation in Africa over the past twenty years. Convinced of the need to ensure that food requirements of the region are met through the implementation of concrete policies, the Conference called upon member States to create a conducive macroeconomic environment, including the design of effective and appropriate policy interventions that go beyond the agricultural sector for the enhancement of all required capa-cities for food and agricultural production. It urged the regional economic communities to build a framework for cooperation that aims at developing subregional and regional trade. The Conference also called upon the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, in cooperation with the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other relevant United Nations organizations to evolve a comprehensive strategy that seeks viable economic development. It appealed to the international community to adopt the measures to cushion the adverse impact of the liberalization of agriculture prices under the Final Act of the Uruguay Round on Africa and requested the Executive Secretary to report on the implementation of this resolution to the next Conference of Ministers.

Resolution 802 (XXX). *African Platform for Action: African common position for the advancement of women*

The Conference of Ministers noted with satisfaction the declaration in the African Platform for Action which reaffirmed the commitment of African Governments to the realization of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the promotion and advancement of women through accelerated action for equality, development and peace.

It adopted the African Platform for Action as a renewed commitment and urged member States to give full support to the implementation of the provisions of the African Platform for Action.

The Conference called upon the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU to adopt at its next meeting the African Platform for Action by according of the necessary political support and requested the subregional economic communities to contribute to sensitizing the member countries in their subregions and to coordinate their efforts for the implementation of the Platform.

Resolution 803 (XXX). *Resource mobilization for the implementation of the Platform for Action*

Noting with concern the low degree to which such global and regional frameworks as the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies and the Abuja Declaration have been implemented and taking into account the outcome of the fifth African Regional Conference on Women held in Dakar, Senegal from 16 to 23 November 1994, aware of the serious financial difficulties facing African States, which may prevent African women from participating effectively in the fourth World Conference on Women, the Conference of Ministers noted with satisfaction the efforts made by the African Centre for Women in drafting the African Platform for Action and in preparations for Africa's participation in the fourth World Conference on Women. It urged member States to make adequate financial appropriations in their national budget giving priority to women in development programmes. The Conference requested the Economic Commission for Africa, the Organization of African Unity and the African Development Bank to mobilize financial resources for the implementation of the African Platform for Action. It further requested Africa's development partners to assist African countries financially and technically for their effective participation in the World Conference on Women.

Resolution 805 (XXX). *Food security in North Africa*

The Conference of Ministers endorsed the resolution adopted by the Multinational Programming and Operational Centre for North Africa concerning food security in North Africa.

Resolution 806 (XXX). *United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders*

The Conference of Ministers acknowledged with satisfaction the activities so far undertaken by the Institute towards the fulfillment of its mandate under the overall guidance of its Governing Board. It urged governments in the region which have not yet acceded to the Statute of the Institute to do so as a matter of priority in order to broaden the Institute's support base in the region and endorsed the recommendations of the Governing Board that the chairmanship of the Board should be held by member States on a two-year rotational basis from among the members of the Governing Board.

Resolution 808 (XXX). *Strengthening of the operational capacity of the Economic Commission for Africa: United Nations Trust Fund for African Development*

Aware of the importance of extrabudgetary resources in general and the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development in particular in financing the Commission's operational activities in the African region; and concerned over the continuous decreases in pledged contributions, due largely to the socio-economic crisis affecting most African countries, the Conference of Ministers expressed its appreciation to countries which have pledged and fully paid their contributions to the Fund. It invited African countries and institutions, multilateral and bilateral donors to continue their support to the Fund. The Conference reaffirmed the need for coordination and harmonization of the activities of pledging conferences at United Nations Headquarters and at the Economic Commission for Africa in order to avoid duplication of effort. It requested the Executive Secretary to review the operations of the Fund and make proposals for strengthening them. It further requested the Executive Secretary to take all necessary steps to implement this resolution and to report to the next Conference of Ministers.

DECLARATION ON AFRICA'S EXTERNAL DEBT

1. We, the African Ministers responsible for economic and social development and planning, meeting in Addis Ababa, during the thirtieth session of the Commission/twenty-first meeting of the Conference of Ministers from 1 to 3 May 1995, and acting on behalf of our governments and people, within the spirit of the charters of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, have, once more, examined the external debt problem of our continent in light of the theme of the session, i.e., promoting accelerated growth and sustainable development in Africa through the building of critical capacities.

2. We recall the Declaration on debt adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirtieth session held in June 1994 in Tunis, Tunisia, as well as the initiatives of the Non-Aligned Movement submitted to the Group of Seven Most Industrialized Countries (G7) at their 1994 summit in Naples.

3. We remain preoccupied by the continent's increasing debt burden which totalled 313 billion dollars in 1994 and accounts, to date, for 231.3 per cent of Africa's exports and 71.6 per cent, on the average, of the total GDP of the continent.

4. We feel that the African debt crisis is partly due to an international financial crisis and that, it is not therefore a temporary liquidity crisis and cannot be resolved through debt rescheduling agreements only. The African debt crisis has been further compounded by the worsening terms of trade for several of our major export commodities.

5. We have examined the various initiatives taken by the international community to reduce Africa's debt burden and noted the poor results obtained following the application of those initiatives. The impact on structural economic imbalances and the solvency crisis besetting our countries, is very limited and fails to address permanently the continent's external debt problem.

6. We reaffirm our commitment to the pursuit of economic reforms and request that our efforts should be met with substantial debt forgiveness and an increase in concessional flows so as to boost public investment in infrastructure and human resources and help attract more private investment.

7. We note that most of the initiatives taken to reduce the external debt of our countries focused on bilateral debt. The results obtained have been mixed and partly offset by the effects of commercial and multilateral debt. Savings from bilateral debt servicing have, indeed, been rapidly absorbed by multilateral and commercial debt servicing.

8. We express our appreciation to the Group of Seven Most Industrialized Countries for the Toronto Initiatives and the Naples Terms whose impact on our external debt, however, falls below our expectations both in terms of the stock of debt involved and the countries eligible.

9. We note with appreciation the Naples Terms and appeal to the international community to improve them in order to:

(a) Cater for an 80 per cent reduction in the total non-concessional debt of all African countries including accumulated interests;

(b) Allow for the cancellation of concessional debts rescheduled in the Paris Club;

(c) Institute innovative measures that would reduce:

(i) multilateral debts including the buy-back of this category of debt with proceeds from the sale of a part of the gold reserves of the International Monetary Fund;

(ii) commercial debt through improved Brady Plan mechanisms and the enhanced IDA Debt Reduction Facility.

10. We are aware that finding a lasting solution to the external debt problem of our countries would require, among other things:

(a) The pursuit of economic reforms likely to create an enabling environment for domestic and foreign investments and the reduction of the adverse effects of the external environment; and

(b) The forging of effective partnerships with bilateral creditors and multilateral institutions from which we request an increase in the flow of concessional resources, especially during the period of our economic restructuring.

11. We are of the opinion that the solution to debt problem should go hand-in-hand with investment and trade flows and that, in this respect, the conversion of debt for the financing of development programmes, such as entrepreneurship promotion, should be encouraged.

12. We propose that the mandate and terms of reference of the Paris Club should be expanded to include the holding forthwith of negotiations between our countries and their bilateral creditors and the multilateral financial institutions for coordinated action in order to find a positive solution to the African debt problem in all its bilateral, multilateral and private aspects, within the global framework for securing positive resource flows to Africa.

Done at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
3 May 1995.

1. Resolution 804(XXX) of the ECA Conference of Ministers.

2. Resolution 807(XXX) of the ECA Conference of Ministers.

CHAPTER II

WORK OF THE COMMISSION DURING THE PERIOD 6 MAY 1994 TO 3 MAY 1995

A. *Activities of subsidiary organs*

4. The list of meetings of subsidiary organs held during the period 6 May 1994 to 3 May 1995 is contained in annex II of this report.

B. *Other activities*

5. During the period under review, the activities of the Commission remained focused on measures aimed at facilitating the socio-economic development and transformation of African economies. In this regard, particular emphasis was placed on the development of policies and strategies to enhance subregional and regional cooperation in Africa through, *inter alia*, the enhancement of human, infrastructural and institutional capacities for accelerated improved socio-economic development.

6. The Commission's research, analytical work and operational activities were particularly directed at the following clusters of issues: (a) development issues and policies; (b) trade, regional economic cooperation and integration; (c) poverty alleviation through sustainable development; (d) development administration and management; (e) human resource development and social transformation; (f) statistical and information systems development; (g) natural resources and energy development; (h) infrastructural and structural transformation; and (i) women in development.

7. The activities outlined below include those under the Commission's approved work programme and priorities, as well as those implemented in accordance with relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the various legislative organs of the Commission.

Development issues and policies

8. The main focus of activities was in providing assistance for the development of planning techniques in forecasting systems, as well as assessment of the economic progress in crucial areas such as monetary, financial and debt situation. The major activities included:

(a) The 1994-1995 Economic and Social Survey of Africa which gave an assessment of the social and economic conditions of the member States of the Commission and the impact of the major international economic events on the African region;

(b) An evaluation of the performance of specialized farm credit institutions in least developed, island and land-locked countries of Africa. This study assessed the successes and failures of 10 development banks in African least developed countries (LDCs), in the areas of resource mobilization and the allocation of credit;

(c) Review of progress achieved by the African LDCs in the implementation of the Paris Declaration and Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s. It made an assessment of the economic and social conditions in the LDCs during the first phase of the programme (1990-1994), an appraisal of the support measures provided by the international development partnership to assist the countries with their development efforts, and proposed new measures for the successful implementation of the Programme of Action during the second half of the 1990s;

(d) Study to analyze the impact of the European Union (EU) on the exports and investments in a selected number of West African countries, namely Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal;

(e) The development perspective study for Africa assessed in quantitative and qualitative terms, the regional economic performances and the situation of intra-African trade on the overall economic development of the region by the year 2008 and beyond. To this effect, 30 structural general equilibrium models have been built for the quantitative analysis which is to be completed in 1996;

(f) Study on the internal debt problems in Africa.

9. The research and analytical work of the secretariat resulted in several reports and publications including:

(a) Report on the economic and social situation in Africa, 1995;

(b) Economic and Social Survey of Africa (1994-1995);

(c) Review of techniques for debt reduction and conversion (swaps) and their application to the African situation;

(d) A preliminary study on the internal debt problems in Africa;

(e) Problematic of financing development in Africa;

(f) Promotion of capital markets in the context of enhancing resource mobilization for development;

(g) The impact of external shocks on African monetary zones and strategies for ameliorating them; and

(h) Harmonization of monetary and financial policies at the subregional level.

10. Extensive technical support and assistance was provided to member States and subregional and regional intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) in macroeconomic policy analysis; developing effective capacities and systems for debt monitoring and management; formulating policies necessary for the effective contribution of the financial sector to their development process, including promotion of capital markets; and assisting them to enhance the process of monetary and financial integration in the context of the Abuja Treaty. Specific activities undertaken included the following:

(a) Expert group meetings, training/seminars/workshops:

(i) An expert group meeting on "Techniques for debt conversions/swaps and application of the World Bank Debt Extract System";

(ii) A training seminar on the use of the software for debt monitoring;

(b) Advisory services, including technical backstopping in the preparation of the documentation and the servicing of meetings and other fora, namely:

(i) Advisory services to Benin, Cameroon, Guinea and other CFA countries to study the impact of CFA devaluation;

(ii) Advisory services to Mauritius, Seychelles and Zaire for monetary and fiscal adjustment;

(iii) Participation in and contribution to the fourteenth meeting of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Ministerial Contact Group on Africa's External Debt Crisis;

(iv) Participation in and contribution to the first meeting of the Working Party of African Governors, including the drafting of the African Governors' Memoranda to the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund and the President of the World Bank as well as the Joint Statement of the African Governors;

(v) Participation in and contribution to the deliberations of the workshop on "Efforts towards currency convertibility in the PTA Member States", organized by the Bankers Association of the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States (PTA) and the Tanzania Bankers Association, including the preparation and presentation of a paper on "Optimal and sustainable exchange rate regimes: The case of PTA countries";

(vi) Participation in and contribution to the deliberations of the second meeting of the Working Party of African Governors of the IMF/World Bank and provision of technical support to African Governors during the annual meetings of the Board of Governors;

(vii) Participation in and contribution to the deliberations of the meetings of the Association of African Central Banks of the Eastern and Southern African region and attendance at the meeting of the Committee of PTA Ministers of Finance;

(viii) Participation in the annual meetings of the Board of Governors of the African Development Bank (ADB);

(ix) Participation in the Leadership Seminar on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;

(x) Participation in the seventh International Conference of the World Assembly of Small and Medium Enterprises;

(xi) Participation in the Senior Policy Workshop on Stimulating and Sustaining Small- and Medium-Scale Enterprises;

(xii) Participation in the Workshop on Assessment of the Impact of Public Sector Management Reforms in Africa; and

(xiii) Participation in the preparatory meetings of the International Conference on Reviving Private Investment in Africa: Opportunities and Challenges.

11. Furthermore, pilot activities to promote the informal sector of Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire were undertaken within the framework of the project on

"The promotion of the informal sector for the development of Africa".

Trade, regional economic cooperation and integration

12. The main focus of the activities of the secretariat in the area of trade, regional economic cooperation and integration during the period under review was on strengthening of subregional economic communities, both at institutional and sectoral levels with emphasis on rationalization, harmonization and coordination of their activities in the areas of trade, money, finance and tourism.

13. In the field of trade development and promotion, special attention was paid to deepening the process of integration in order to promote intra-African trade as called for by the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community. Assistance was rendered to member States, national trade promoters and the African business community through a mix of actions, including the development and implementation of policies and strategies designed to enhance intra-African trade and trade with non-African countries, such as South-South trade.

14. Activities in the area of economic coopera-tion and integration were aimed at facilitating the implementation of the Abuja Treaty. In this respect, the secretariat actively participated in the work of the Joint OAU/ECA/ADB Secretariat, and produced some tangible results such as: (a) the preparation of proposals for the implementation of the Abuja Treaty; (b) setting up a committee to formulate proposals for resource mobilization in support of the African Economic Community's activities and formulating relevant proposals thereafter; (c) formulation of a framework for establishing a working relationship between the subregional economic communities; and (d) preparation of a report on policy convergence in the context of the Abuja Treaty.

15. Accordingly, a number of publications were produced aimed at disseminating information on trade opportunities existing in Africa, economic cooperation and integration initiatives and prospects and on other related issues. These publications include:

(a) African Trade Bulletin (vol. 19);

(b) Flash on Trade Opportunities (vol. 63);

(c) Transnational Focus;

(d) Assistance to African countries during the mid-term review of the Lomé IV Convention;

(e) Survey of major trends and developments in the trade sector in 1993-1994 and prospects for 1995;

(f) Africa within the new world order: World Trade Organization and Africa;

(g) Rationalization and standardization of products; and

(h) Trade liberalization of domestically produced goods;

(i) Directory of West African IGOs;

(j) Bulletin of West African IGOs;

(k) Women and development in the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL) region (Nos. 8 and 9);

(l) Assessment of the European single market on North African trade with Europe;

(m) The role of financial institutions in mobilization of resources for implementation of core multinational projects within the framework of the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa; and

(n) Pre-feasibility study on efficient and rational exploitation of natural resources within the North African subregion (energy, water) to support industrial development and cooperation in the subregion.

16. During the period under review, technical secretariat support was rendered to subregional IGOs in the substantive servicing of the following:

(a) Fifteenth meeting of the officials of the Southern African Labour Commission (SALC);

(b) Third meeting of the Regional Committee on Transport;

(c) Joint consultative meeting with the CEPGL secretariat and BDGEL (CEPGL Bank) to discuss modalities for implementation of community (joint) projects and to promote border trade of food products; and

(d) Meetings on coastal shipping project.

17. The secretariat, in the context of promoting economic, trade, monetary and financial integration in Africa, rendered advisory services to:

(a) African, Caribbean and Pacific Group (ACP) countries on preparatory activities towards the negotiation for the successor Lomé Convention and the mid-term review of the Lomé IV Convention;

(b) PTA countries in consultation with the PTA Trade and Development Bank on the recently created "PTA Bank Price Guarantee Scheme" designed to stabilize export earnings of African exporters through adoption of "commodity risk management techniques";

(c) PTA and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) member States on food security through a workshop and expert group meeting which discussed the details of a food security plan;

(d) The Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) on drawing up a technical inter-island cooperation programme in the fields of coastal shipping, marine and air transport, environment and marine affairs;

(e) The Niger Basin Authority (NBA) for mapping out the strengthening of the Authority and the rekindling of its activities;

(f) The Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD) on the formulation of projects and programmes for IGADD/Development Partners meeting in January 1995;

(g) The Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) on modalities for trade liberalization; and

(h) The Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) on modalities for relaunching the economic integration process in the Central African subregion.

18. In the area of tourism, efforts continued to be directed at strengthening international cooperation and boosting the role of the secretariat in the sustainable development of Africa's tourism. In this respect, activities centred mainly on collaboration with organizations and institutions in the definition and implementation of programmes and projects.

19. This improved external relations with organizations active in the field of tourism facilitated the establishment of the Pan-African Association for Tourism, the transformation of the "Salon international de l'artisanat de Ouagadougou" into "Salon international du tourisme et de l'artisanat de Ouagadougou" (SIAO). This transformation has broadened the mandate of the organization to include the promotion of tourism in Africa. The major outcomes of these initiatives were the elaboration of the Statutes of the Pan-African Association of Tourism and the organization of the SIAO 1994 under the theme "tourism and handicraft" in which the secretariat took an active part.

20. The secretariat also strengthened its cooperation with international organizations, in particular with the World Tourism Organization (WTO), leading to the participation of ECA in the "Seminar on slave road" in the twenty-seventh meeting of the WTO Commission for Africa and in the seminar on "The promotion of tourist destination".

21. Within the framework of the ECA/UNCTAD Joint Unit, research on a number of important issues was initiated including "Promotion of foreign direct investment in Zimbabwe and Botswana", "Promotion of foreign direct investment in Africa: Lessons from Asian countries", "Promotion of multinational industrial enterprises: The case of the PTA", "African multinational enterprises and regional trade development" and the "Role of small- and medium-sized transnational corporations in selected African countries: The case of Lesotho and the Gambia"; privatization programmes in selected African countries; foreign direct investment and manufactured exports from free economic zones; and foreign direct investment and primary commodities for export.

22. In addition, field projects were also implemented as follows:

(a) Establishment of the Eastern and Southern African Documentation and Information System (ESADIS), especially its operationalization which has been successfully implemented through training workshops and rendering information technology services;

(b) The first phase of the project entitled "Rural development support communications network for Africa", which included two workshops, were organized in Lesotho and Zambia; and

(c) Study on "Fleet planning" of the pro-posed joint CEPGL airline including its financial aspects.

Poverty alleviation through sustainable development

23. During the period under review, the work of the secretariat under the subprogramme continued to explore ways of contributing to improvements in living standards. In this regard, various activities were implemented under the four components of this subprogramme, namely: agriculture and rural development, population, environment and human settlements.

24. Most activities carried out were in fulfilment of major global and regional programmes or strategies. In this respect, issues addressed were in line with the needs of member States, as expressed in the Dakar/-Ngor Declaration, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD.94), the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF), Agenda 21 and the African Common Position on the Environment.

25. Activities in the field of agriculture laid emphasis on alleviation of rural poverty; food self-sufficiency and food security; environmental protection covering the conservation, expansion and rational utilization of natural resources, particularly land, water and forests; and the elaboration of sustainable environmental rehabilitation, reconstruction and development programmes for natural and man-made devastated areas in Africa, including the preparation of frameworks for the elaboration of master plans at country level.

26. The issues of food self-sufficiency and food security continued to be of overriding concern to the secretariat. Consequently, various activities carried out during the reporting period had significant food self-sufficiency and food-security dimensions. Among the prominent outputs produced in this respect were a model for food security policy analysis and impact assessment based on a case study of the Ambo College of Agriculture in Ethiopia; a food security situation and outlook; and a report on the expansion of non-conventional food resources, such as game meat and edible fungi.

27. In addition to the above, activities were undertaken in areas specifically linked to environmental protection. These revolved around water-shed management and soil conservation for arid and semi-arid regions; promotion of green belts and rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems in selected Sahelian countries for the purpose of warding off desertification and soil erosion; poverty alleviation; sustained conservation of edifice closed forests and biodiversity; and protection and development of marine environment.

28. Some support to enhance the effectiveness of small-holder farming was provided to member States and their IGOs. Two major outputs associated with this were those on rural credit systems without collateral in the Eastern and Southern African subregion and a manual on design elements, monitoring and evaluation of alternative delivery systems particularly geared to implementation processes in participatory rural development. The outputs aimed at enhancing small farmers' capacity to have access to resources and to get them involved in grass-roots development activities.

29. The various research and analytical work of the secretariat were translated into reports and publications to articulate strategies and solutions to address the concerns of agriculture and rural development in Africa. These included the following:

(a) Reports to intergovernmental organs:

(i) Border food trade in the Yaounde-, Lusaka- and Niamey-based MULPOC countries;

(ii) Etude sur le commerce frontalier des produits alimentaires dans la sous-région du MULPOC de Gisenyi;

(iii) Policies for improving integrated micro water-shed management and soil conservation for arid and semi-arid areas for sustained development in the North African subregion;

(iv) Promotion of green belts and rehabilitation of degraded eco-systems in selected Sahelian countries to prevent desertification and soil erosion;

(v) Progress made in the alleviation of poverty in Africa;

(vi) Promotion of non-conventional food as a sustained source of food for the poor vulnerable population;

(vii) Measures to provide conservation of edifice closed forests and biodiversity under sustainable criteria in selected coastal African countries;

(viii) Criticai assessment of policies towards alleviation of poverty in Africa on capacity building for food production, food security and self-sufficiency in Africa.

(b) Technical publications:

(i) Rural Progress;

(ii) Food and Agriculture in Africa: Staff Papers;

(iii) Monographs (Nos. 7, 8, 9, 10);

(iv) Framework for developing and implementing comprehensive food security policies and programmes: The livestock factor in the improvement of food security in Africa;

(v) Technical manual on a framework for goal-oriented food security planning and programming in Africa;

(vi) Model for food security policy analysis and impact assessment at national, subregional and regional levels;

(vii) Development and improvement of agricultural information systems and databases;

(viii) Measures for strengthening cooperation for the exploitation and management of shared fishery resources;

(ix) Subregional cooperation on effective implementation of established exclusive economic fishery zones, including the review of existing fishing arrangements;

(x) Framework for reconstruction and rehabilitation prepared for post-conflict areas in Africa: Burundi;

(xi) Food security situation and its outlook in Africa;

(xii) ECA activities in the field of emergency, humanitarian, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development in Africa: Progress report;

(xiii) Food and agriculture production, food security and food self-sufficiency in Africa;

(xiv) AFMESA Newsletter (No. 3).

30. In addressing the issue of sustainable agriculture and environmental protection and rehabilitation, the secretariat, through the implementation of field projects, demonstrated measures required for strengthening capacities. Activities in this respect included the implementation of the following field projects:

(a) Sustainable agriculture and environmental rehabilitation in the Tigray region of Ethiopia (SAERT);

(b) Sustainable agriculture and environmental rehabilitation in the Amhara region of Ethiopia (SAFRAR); and

(c) Pilot project on credit schemes without collateral for the poor rural farmers in selected countries in the Lusaka-based MULPOC subregion.

31. In addition, the secretariat provided advisory services to member States and their IGOs on issues such as protection and development of marine environment, food security policy analysis, formulation of forestry action plans and elaboration of region-wide programme for post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction. In this respect, the secretariat fielded missions to Angola and Eritrea and provided technical support to El Mansura University, Egypt and the College of Agriculture at Alamaya, Ethiopia.

32. In the area of population, activities included the preparation of reports and publications from studies on population dynamics, family planning, HIV/AIDS and other pandemics and their relationship with sustainable development. It also provided substantive technical support to member States, regional and subregional IGOs through advisory services and training.

33. Technical publications reviewed the causes and effects of population dynamics including migration, age structure, teenage pregnancy and family planning on socio-economic development. The following technical publications were produced:

(a) Family planning targets in relation to fertility reduction and reproductive health care in ECA member States;

(b) Patterns, causes and consequences for development planning of female migration in selected ECA member States;

(c) Implications of population age structure on resource utilization and social security in relation to poverty alleviation in ECA member States;

(d) Teenage pregnancy, its socio-economic and health consequences, and measures to reduce the magnitude of the problem with special emphasis on female drop-outs from school;

(e) African Population Newsletter; and

(f) African Population Studies Series.

34. Advisory services were provided to member States in population data collection, analysis and training through its advisors attached to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Country Support Teams located in Harare, Zimbabwe; Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and Dakar, Senegal. Among the countries which benefitted from these services during the period under review were: Guinea-Bissau, which received technical and the analytical assistance on a training workshop on demographic analysis on the 1991 Population and Housing Census; Namibia, to which a regional advisor provided a backstopping mission on the mid-term review data collection and analysis on the 1991 Population and Housing Census; Sierra Leone, which was assisted on review of chapters of analytical report of the 1985 Census; Ghana, which was assisted in analysis of census and survey data; and Swaziland, which was assisted with its data collection and analysis.

35. The Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS) and the Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques (IFORD) continued with their training and research programme in population and demographic studies.

36. In the field of environment, assistance was rendered through advisory missions to Eritrea on protection of marine environment and to Seychelles on water and environment. Case studies on the contribution of the coastal and marine sectors were initiated in the Gambia and the United Republic of Tanzania, and are expected to be completed towards the end of 1995.

37. With regard to the application of meteorology to development, training of senior national meteorologists and dissemination of relevant meteorological products have been and are being strengthened through the programme of work of the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), based in Niamey, Niger, in close cooperation with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

38. Activities in the area of human settlements concentrated mainly on providing assistance to member States, IGOs and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on the preparation for Habitat II. This included the formulation of policies for shelter provision, especially for urban and rural poor through reports, publications and technical assistance covering technical secretariat support, advisory services and field projects. The details are as follows:

(a) Reports and technical publications:

(i) Formulation and implementation of human settlements policies towards mitigating rural/urban imbalances in African countries;

(ii) Progress report on the preparation for the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II);

(iii) Guidelines for elaboration and implementation of policies on shelter provision for urban and rural poor;

(iv) Manual on human settlements planning and management in disaster-prone areas;

(b) Technical secretariat support to subregional and regional IGOs and NGOs in the organization of meetings to discuss human settlement issues and define areas for cooperation. This included:

(i) A technical meeting between ECA and Shelter Afrique during which each identified actions for a fruitful cooperation within the Memorandum of Understanding;

(ii) Organization of World Habitat Day in Senegal, where a review of progress was made in the national preparations for Habitat II in members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS); and

(iii) Participation in the subregional ministerial meeting for Eastern, Central and Southern Africa on the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Kampala, Uganda, and in the ministerial meeting on the preparation for Habitat II in French-speaking Central Africa, in Brazzaville, the Congo;

(c) Advisory services were provided to Benin, Botswana, Cape Verde, the Central Africa Republic, Chad, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania and Zambia in the preparation of their work plans and national reports for Habitat II;

(d) A regional project on the development of building materials industries in Africa is being implemented with the financial assistance of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). One lime kiln was built during the reporting period in Uganda to demonstrate the viability of the commercial manufacture and utilization of lime.

39. Interaction has been actively maintained with IGOs and NGOs in the implementation of activities towards poverty alleviation. Documents and other materials were supplied to the African Regional Conference on Women, Environment and Sustainable Development organized by the Uganda Women Tree Planting Movement, in Kampala in September 1994 on their request. Assistance was provided to the Network for Environment and Sustainable Development in Africa (NESDA) in the workshop on institutional mechanisms for environmental management in Africa held in Addis Ababa in March 1995. The Joint OAU/ECA/ADB Secretariat continued to work together towards the implementation of regional action programmes and plans such as the Dakar/Ngor Declaration, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, Agenda 21, and the African Strategies for its implementation and preparation for Habitat II.

Development adminstration and management

40. During the reporting period, activities were concentrated on enhancing the efficiency of African public services, improving the performance of public enterprises, promoting entrepreneurship and private sector development. Efforts were also made to foster ethics, accountability and good governance in member States.

41. Among the major policy meetings organized were:

(a) Senior Policy Workshop on Assessment of the Impact of Public Sector Management Reforms in Africa, Addis Ababa, December l994; and

(b) Senior Policy Workshop on Stimulating and Sustaining Small- and Medium-scale Enterprises through Effective Outreach Programmes, Access to Finance and Improvement of the Legal and Regulatory Environment, Addis Ababa, November l994.

Three national workshops were organized in Zambia in the areas of integrated public financial management; improving public financial management capacity and accountability; and training of trainers on delivery and assessment of training programmes. A national workshop on strengthening public financial management capacity and accountability was also organized in Ethiopia.

42. The secretariat collaborated closely with regional, subregional and international organizations and institutions, such as the African Association for

Public Administration and Management (AAPAM), the African Centre for Administrative Training and Research for Development (CAFRAD), the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP), the Eastern and Southern African Management Institute (ESAMI), the Commonwealth Secretariat, and the European Centre for Development Policy Management, as well as organizations and institutions of the United Nations system in the implementation of a number of initiatives and programmes in the area of development management in African countries.

43. Among the technical publications produced during the period were:

(a) Indicators for monitoring and evaluation of the performance of public enterprises in Africa;

(b) Directory of institutions in Africa offering education and training advisory services;

(c) Fiscal policies to promote private sector investment;

(d) Developing and strengthening credit and capital markets;

(e) Role of professional associations in management development; and

(f) Improvements in legal and regulatory constraints decentralization.

Human resources development and social transformation

44. The secretariat continued to collaborate with governments, IGOs, NGOs, United Nations and other international institutions in hosting and conducting meetings, conferences, seminars and workshops as well as conducting studies and producing technical publications with the primary objective of exchanging information and ideas on the promotion of human- and social-centred development policies and strategies.

45. Operational activities constituted a major area of work. These aimed at building and strengthening critical human resources capacities in Africa in accordance with ECA's framework agenda for building and utilizing critical capacities in Africa and the African Common Position on Human and Social Development in Africa. Particular emphasis was placed on providing assistance to member States in the planning, development and utilization of human resources through the following workshops/seminars/-training:

(a) Non-formal and distance education for peace and nation-building in South Africa;

(b) Training of teacher trainers for peace and nation-building in Uganda and Cameroon;

(c) Planning for human resources development and human development in Seychelles;

(d) Technical innovation and entrepreneurship development in the informal sector in the Sudan;

(e) Human resources policies and programmes for human development in Cameroon and Benin;

(f) Employment planning and productivity enhancement in the Sudan;

(g) Human resources development and human development in Zambia;

(h) National seminar on youth, drugs and health in Addis Ababa; and

(i) Seminar on the social impact of structural adjustment programmes (SAPs), organized in Egypt, in cooperation with the Arab Research Centre, Cairo.

46. Advisory services were rendered to various member States in the area of human resources development: Seychelles, on human resources development and Senegal, on the impact of job creation in Senegal: Towards a long-term strategy.

47. During the period under review, technical publications and reports aimed at invigorating the educational system including changes in curricula to make them meet the new development challenges and needs were prepared on the following themes:

(a) The re-orientation of educational curricula to the new development challenges and education for peace;

(b) Policy measures and practices for co-ordinating, collaborating and improving the production of educational and instructional materials in African countries;

(c) The informal sector: Creating an enabling environment;

(d) Technical innovation, entrepreneurial development and financing in the informal sector;

(e) Trends and issues on human resources development in Africa: The place and role of Africa's subregional economic communities in education;

(f) Report on the state of human resources planning, development and utilization in Africa;

(g) Training Information Notice (two issues);

(h) The impact of the African socio-economic crisis on youth, drugs and health;

(i) Regional and international overview of the drug situation in the world;

(j) Dangers of drugs: Socio-economic and political implications;

(k) General overview of youth health in Africa, adolescents and sexually transmitted diseases;

(l) Youth and reproductive health in Ethiopia;

(m) Adolescent reproductive health in the city of Addis Ababa;

(n) The role of penal sanctions and criminal justice systems as counter-measures against drug abuse in Ethiopia;

(o) The role of the Ministry of Health in drug abuse prevention;

(p) Substance abuse disorder treatment; and rehabilitation and social re-integration of drug abusers in Ethiopia;

(q) Report on social welfare and social development activities;

(r) Youth in Africa: A situation analysis on education and training, employment, crime and juvenile delinquency, rural development, peace-making, rehabilitation and reconstruction;

(s) Participatory development training manuals (PDTM);

(t) Studies in participatory development;

(u) Popular participation handbook and popular participation workshop series;

(v) Report on the African social situation of 1994 and the survey of 1995; and

(w) A special report on gender disparities in African formal education which examined female participation at the various levels in African education, constraints to female access to education and some policy recommendations.

48. A major initiative of the secretariat was the initiation of a new series entitled "Human development in Africa report", highlighting the significant human development issues of the region by reviewing progress achieved and setbacks encountered against a background of commitments made to improve the human situation in Africa. The 1995 issue of the report was devoted to the themes of "goals for the child", "health for all" and "basic education for all".

49. The secretariat also co-organized major regional meetings, national conferences and ad hoc expert group meetings such as:

(a) The regional consultation on the impact of armed conflict on children, and famine in Ethiopia: Learning from the past to prepare for the future;

(b) Ad hoc expert group meeting of vice-chancellors, presidents and rectors of institutions of higher learning in Africa on orientation of educational curricula to meeting Africa's development challenges and promote peace and nation-building;

(c) Ad hoc expert group meeting on the impact of political conflicts and instability on social progress and cohesion, with emphasis on the African family;

(d) Ad hoc expert group meeting on youth, drugs and health;

(e) Fourth meeting of the Governing Board of the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI);

(f) Seventh meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies in Africa; and

(g) Expert Forum on Demand Reduction in West Africa, organized by the United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), in collaboration with the International Council on Alcohol and Addiction.

50. The central role of people's participation to the achievement of human resources development and social transformation has been widely recognized. As such, the secretariat places much emphasis on the need to work with NGOs and people's organizations in support of development in Africa and on assisting NGOs and community-based people's organizations to develop and implement participatory projects and programmes. In pursuance of these objectives, the secretariat launched a series of activities in co-operation with NGO consortium organizations in various African countries. All these activities were conducted through the generous support of the German Technical Assistance Programme (GTZ).

51. The secretariat conducted the following workshops and seminars during 1994:

(a) National training workshop on strengthening the capacity of popular development organizations to effectively make contributions to and influence the policy-making process in Uganda;

(b) Workshop on popular participatory development in Ethiopia;

(c) National policy workshops on enhancing dialogue, cooperation and interface between the government and popular development organizations in the Gambia;

(d) National policy workshops on the role of sustainable development in Ghana;

(e) Regional and national training workshop on development communication in support of effective popular participation in the development process;

(f) National workshop on strengthening popular development organizations to effectively make contributions to and influence the policy-making process in the Gambia;

(g) Workshop on the role of people's organizations in socio-economic development in Egypt;

(h) Regional workshop on popular participation and democratization: The role of trade unions; and

(i) Workshop on the role of popular participation in local development in Egypt.

52. In addition, the secretariat organized the following meetings in collaboration with NGOs: Citizenship and poverty: What prospects in Africa; and global NGO forum on Building sustainable societies: The role of NGOs in emergencies and social development.

Statistical and information systems development

53. During the period under review, the activities of the subprogramme included the preparation and development of publications and databases on various socio-economic development issues, delivery of training, advisory services and other forms of technical cooperation, database development, network building, user services, servicing of legislative and other meetings for member States, subregional and regional institutions and NGOs.

54. In the context of the Strategy for the Implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa, the secretariat assisted 20 African countries, in varying degrees in their statistical needs assessment and the preparation and implementation of a statistical development plan as an integral part of the national development plan.

55. The secretariat co-organized and/or participated in relevant fora where statistics and information issues were discussed. These included the following:

(a) Joint Conference of the International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS) and the African Statistical Association (AFSA). The conference, whose theme was "Managing development in the 1990s and beyond: New trends in statistics", examined the tasks and problems facing African official statisticians and interchange of ideas and experience of appropriate methodologies and applications; and

(b) Fifth meeting of the Coordinating Committee on African Statistical Development.

56. Within the framework of the Coordinating Committee on African Statistical Development Subcommittees on Training and Organization and Management of National Statistical Systems, a regional survey of statistical organization and training was conducted. This survey addressed the issues of the quantity, quality and relevance of statistical training in Africa as well as the organizational relationships between various parts of the national statistical system.

57. Assistance was also provided to member States in improvement as well as in building national electronic communication capacity through the following training activities:

(a) Several short courses throughout the period on electronic communications, use of e-mail, etc.;

(b) Training course in Pan-African Development Information System (PADIS) methodologies and the use of micro-CDS/ISIS software package for staff of the East and Southern Africa Development Information System (ESADIS) PADIS subregional centre in Lusaka;

(c) PADIS/AAAS database access workshop;

(d) Workshop on statistical computing;

(e) Strategies for accelerating the improvement of civil registration and vital statistics systems;

(f) Training workshop on standardization and compatibility of information systems;

(g) In-service training for university lecturers teaching information science;

(h) Attachment training to the African Regional Centre for Technology (ARCT) of an official from the Documentation Centre of the Ministry of Planning of the Gambia;

(i) Workshop on networking impact evaluation;

(j) Training course on the use of micro-CDS/ISIS software package for processing information, trade information systems and marketing of information products and services, for Senegal; and

(k) Training course on PADIS methodologies, micro-CDS/ISIS software, information management, networking, marketing of information services/products, etc., for Uganda.

58. During the period under review, the following publications were issued:

(a) Africa in Figures 1994;

(b) African Socio-economic Indicators 1993;

(c) African Statistical Year Book, 1993;

(d) Foreign Trade Statistics for Africa, (Series A, No. 36 - Direction of Trade);

(e) Problems faced by African countries in the collection, processing and dissemination of trade statistics;

(f) Guidelines for the improvement of statistics on the situation of children in Africa; and

(g) PADIS Newsletter.

59. At the request of member States and subregional and regional IGOs, the secretariat delivered advisory services on a wide range of topics relating to statistics and development information management. These included missions to member States, subregional and regional IGOs as follows:

(a) Seventeen advisory missions undertaken in the areas of: statistical needs assessment and strategy development; national accounts; trade statistics; demographic and environment statistics;

(b) Advisory missions to:

(i) The Niger, to devise ways and means for the revival of the West African Development Information System (WADIS);

(ii) Mauritania, to assess the needs of the information network of the country, in the collection, processing and exchange of information, with a view to strengthening it in the framework of ECA's development information network;

(iv) South Africa:

a. to present a paper on indigenous information resources in ECA, and to discuss with South African information officials the possibilities for cooperation between South Africa and ECA in the development of a national information network and South Africa's participation in regional information activities; and

b. to prepare guidelines for the establishment and designation of a national development information coordinating centre and to discuss the guidelines with the officials of the Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ministry of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology;

(iv) The Congo, to carry out an assessment of needs in terms of development information systems and electronic networks;

(c) Advisory services to:

(i) ECOWAS:

a. to assess the Community's needs in terms of computerization of the activities of the secretariat in order to increase its productivity and improve programme delivery;

b. to prepare a project document and work plan according to the assessed ECOWAS needs in terms of computerization of the activities of the secretariat in order to increase its productivity;

(ii) IGADD, to assess its existing database development procedures, develop databases using CDS/ISIS software and introduce staff to database development techniques; and

(iii) ESADIS, on project preparation.

60. Finally, projects aimed at operationalizing some of the strategies for enhancing statistical and information development and utilization were implemented. These included, inter alia, the following:

(a) Development and improvement of environment statistics;

(b) Capacity building for electronic communication in Africa; and

(c) Electronic networking and connectivity among African countries.

Natural resources and energy development

61. In the natural resources and energy development sector, emphasis was on the promotion of subregional and regional development cooperation for capacity building for natural resources and energy development and management. In this respect, assistance was provided to member States, as well as subregional and regional IGOs, in the formulation of national, subregional and regional policies and strategies for sustainable exploitation, development and management of natural resources and energy.

62. To this effect, research, preparation of publications, provision of technical assistance including advisory services, organization of training/seminars/-workshops and field projects constituted the mix of activities carried out by the secretariat in enhancing the initiatives of member States to manage effectively their natural resources and energy. These activities evolved around the following areas of concern, namely: (a) energy development; (b) mineral resources development; (c) water and marine resources development; and (d) cartography and remote sensing services promotion and development.

63. With respect to energy development, emphasis was on sustainable energy development, in particular the economic viability of small-scale energy development for rural electrification. In addressing this issue, the secretariat, inter alia, carried out the following:

(a) Organization of an expert group meeting on "Policies and strategies for the development and utilization of natural resources and energy in Africa" with the participation of six energy experts representing subregional and international institutions;

(b) Preparation of two technical studies on the "Viability of using photovoltaic energy for rural electrification in Africa" and on "Economic viability of manufacturing turbines and generators for mini-hydropower in African member States;

(c) Preparation of the technical publication on "Problems related to sustainable development and utilization of natural resources and energy: Strategies for intercountry cooperation in context of Agenda 21".

64. Efforts were intensified to strengthen the Commission's relationships with African and non-African partners in the field of energy development. This proved very useful leading to some meaningful collaborative activities which included, inter alia, the following:

(a) Participation in the Third World Renewable Energy Congress held in Reading, United Kingdom, for which a paper on the "Contribution of new and renewable sources of energy to African energy supply" was prepared and presented by the secretariat;

(b) Participation in the Southern and East African Regional Forum in Cape Town, South Africa, organized by the World Energy Council (WEC) and the South African National Committee of the WEC; and

(c) Substantive contribution in the discussions held during the workshop on "Institutional aspects of the energy sector in Africa" organized by the African Development Bank (ADB).

65. Activities in the mineral resources areas focused on the evaluation of the current situation of the development of mineral resources, especially the financing of mineral exploration and development. In reviewing this concern, the secretariat carried out a number of activities detailed below.

66. The secretariat organized and serviced an Ad hoc Expert Group Meeting on Natural Resources and Energy which evaluated the current situation of the development of natural resources (including minerals) and energy and established guidelines for governments, donors, international organizations and private sector on measures required to enhance the sustainable development of these resources at national, subregional and regional levels. The meeting made recommendations on various issues including, inter alia, mineral development policies, role of the private sector in the African mining sector, establishment of internal capital markets and stock exchanges, promotion of minerals processing, establishment of transnational mining companies and enterprises and protection of the environment.

67. Field studies were carried out on the production of fertilizers from mineral materials and on the prospect for increasing mining of some specific minerals. Findings from these studies were presented in the following publications:

(a) Raw mineral materials for fertilizers and the contribution to the enhancement of the agricultural sector; and

(b) Prospects for the increased production of and intra-African trade in copper and copper-based products.

68. Several advisory service missions were undertaken to provide technical assistance to member States and subregional and regional IGOs to assess the economic viability of some mining operations, including their economic potential and relative contribution to economic development. The countries and IGOs which benefited from these services are as follows:

(a) Ethiopia, with regard to gold mining in Sidamo province;

(b) The Congo:

(i) to assess the potentialities of the iron ore of Zanaga and the limestone deposit of Mount Bello with a view to establishing in that locality a cement plant;

(ii) to review the draft of the new mining legislation of the Congo; and

(iii) to review the explanatory note of its metallogenic map;

(c) East and Southern African Mineral Resources Development Centre (ESAMRDC) by providing technical support to the eighth meeting of the Executive Board and fourteenth meeting of its Governing Council;

(d) Cameroon and Gabon, on the improvement of their artisanal gold mining. A report containing recommendations has been submitted to the Governments of these two countries; and

(e) Gisenyi-based Multinational Programming and Operational Centre (MULPOC) on the study on minerals potential of the Kagera Basin in February 1994. Based on the findings of surveys in the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda, a preliminary report covering these two countries was prepared and discussed by the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the MULPOC.

69. The secretariat's activities in the area of water and marine resources focused on enhancing subregional and regional cooperation for the development of water and marine resources, especially the multi-purpose development of trans-boundary river basins in promoting integrated development. In view of the need to enhance cooperation, significant attention was given to assessing the conditions and requirements necessary for a harmonized and comprehensive action plan for water and marine resources development for the African region. This was done through the following activities:

(a) An Ad hoc Expert Group Meeting on Policies and Strategies for the Development of Natural Resources and Energy in Africa, which considered current policy issues relating to water, energy, minerals and cartography. In respect of water resources, it dwelt on the availability and distribution of water and on the problems and constraints encountered by the institutions in matters of coordination, legislation, human resources development and policy and planning strategies. It reviewed the situation in water resources assessment, drinking water supply and sanitation, agricultural water use, subregional cooperation on transboundary river/lake basins, as well as the problems of flood and drought. From this assessment, the meeting drew up a series of policy recommendations for improvements in the development and management of water resources;

(b) Some studies covering problems and prospects for water resources development were undertaken. Findings from these were presented in the following publications:

(i) Study on problems and prospects for small-scale irrigation systems in Burkina Faso, the Niger and Senegal;

(ii) Seventh issue of MAJI, an information bulletin on water resources activities in Africa;

(iii) Study on problems and prospects for inter-country cooperation for integrated water resources development of the Nile River basin, whose objective is to enhance cooperation among the countries sharing the Nile basin; and

(iv) Problems and prospects for development of small-scale irrigation systems.

70. The secretariat continued to provide guidance and advice regarding policies and strategies to member States and IGOs. These included the following:

(a) Seychelles, to study the water resources problems of southern Mahe for development of fisheries, agriculture, tourism, housing and other economic sectors;

(b) The Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), to participate in the meeting organized by the LCBC Secretariat for consultation and advice; and to assist in developing a strategy for the convening of a donors' conference to mobilize resources for the integrated development of the Lake Chad basin and for the campaign to save Lake Chad;

(c) Ethiopia, to service a meeting of International Ocean Institute (IOI), the private sector and the Ethiopian Government on spirulina development in Ethiopia. The objective of the meeting was to promote the development of spirulina in Ethiopia as a food supplement project.

71. The secretariat also participated in the annual meeting of the IOI in Madras, India, which reviewed recent developments in global ocean management, including the coming into force of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the new concept of the World Commission on Oceans.

72. With respect to cartography and remote sensing, activities carried out were aimed at reorienting cartography and remote sensing programmes to respond to the needs and goals of natural resources development.

73. The secretariat conducted a detailed assessment of its remote sensing programme for Africa, with a view to evaluating results attained and re-orienting them to respond to current needs of African countries in the light of the goals of Agenda 21.

74. Publications providing valuable information were prepared as follows:

(a) The Cartographic and Remote Sensing Bulletin;

(b) The accession list of maps and charts; and

(c) Classified catalogue of maps.

75. The secretariat continued to provide guidance and advice regarding policies as well as technical and administrative issues to the Regional Centre for Services in Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing (RCSSMRS) and to the Regional Centre for Training in Aerospace Surveys (RECTAS). Also, special efforts were devoted to reactivate and normalize the activities of the African Organization for Cartography and Remote Sensing (AOCRS).

Infrastructural and structural transformation

76. During the period under review, activities of this subprogramme focused on assisting member States and their subregional and regional IGOs to better plan efficient and well-maintained infrastructures, in particular transport, communication and industrial infrastructures. Specific emphasis was placed on the adoption of measures to enhance the contribution of efficient infrastructural facilities to the sustained structural transformation of African economies within the framework of the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (UNTACDA II) and the United Nations second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA II). The contribution of science and technology to the realization of an efficient and well-maintained infrastructural capacity, in particular transport, industrial and agricultural capacities, was also addressed within this subprogramme.

77. The major concerns addressed in the area of transport and communications related to the problems being faced at the various levels in the implementation of the UNTACDA II programme. In the area of industrial development, activities were geared towards addressing the specific issues of relevance to industrialization and capacity building in the process of economic development at the national and regional levels. These activities focused mainly on:

(a) Technology development issues, including, in particular, technology transfer, acquisition and negotiation in the sectors of industry, transport and communications and technologies to be promoted and developed for the implementation of the programme of IDDA II;

(b) The factors playing a major role in enterprise formation in African countries; and

(c) The development of repair and maintenance of industrial facilities in Africa.

78. Activities in the field of science and technology focused on three main areas:

(a) Promotion of policies and institutions;

(b) Human resources development; and

(c) Regional cooperation.

79. In all three areas, activities were mostly geared towards assisting African member States and IGOs in the implementation of the UNTACDA II and IDDA II programmes; assisting them to undertake studies; conducting ad hoc expert group meetings as well as seminars to enhance the African capacity for articulating policies and drawing up action programmes for implementing the two Decade programmes, including mobilization of required financial resources for their implementation and for science and technology development.

80. Studies were carried out on:

(a) The use of incentives for the development and application of science and technology;

(b) Science and technology indicators in Africa; and

(c) Foreign direct investment as a vehicle for science and technology development.

The findings and conclusions of the study on incentives will constitute issues to be examined by a training seminar and the first meeting of the African Regional Conference on Science and Technology scheduled to be held in late 1995.

81. A number of development problems were also addressed through meetings to examine and make proposals for their alleviation. These included the organization of the following ad hoc expert group meetings on:

(a) The development of African metal industries based on South-South cooperation;

(b) The utilization and perspectives for the integrated development of natural resources for the production of phosphate, nitrogen and potassium fertilizers;

(c) The possibilities and perspectives on the development of petro-chemical industries in North Africa on the basis of local reserves of oil and gas;

(d) The application of nuclear science and technology for development, particularly in the field of agriculture and food preservation; and

(e) Technology transfer, negotiation and acquisition particularly in the sectors of industry, transport and communications in the context of the promotion of the African Economic Community.

82. Several publications designed to draw attention of policy and decision makers to specific infrastructural problems relating to transport, communications, industry and science and technology, and the measures required to enhance capacity of African countries in these areas were produced as follows:

(a) UNTACDA II: First Mid-Term Evaluation;

(b) UNTACDA II Newsletter (Nos. 5 and 6);

(c) Infrastructure required for the establishment of a regional transport database in ECA;

(d) Format and content of transport statistics yearbook for Africa;

(e) Implementation of the second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa: 1993-1994 progress report;

(f) Improvement of management and maintenance systems in transport: Railways, inland water transport and roads and road transport;

(g) Marketing study for the establishment of coastal shipping services in the West and Central African subregion;

(h) Progress report on the harmonization of UNTACDA II and IDDA II;

(i) Maritime transport and intra-African trade;

(j) Sustainable physical infrastructure development and maintenance in Africa: Lesson from Moroccan experience;

(k) Assistance à la CBLT à l'élaboration de projets bancables du programme du secteur des transports, communications et tourisme du Plan directeur pour le développement et la gestion économiquement rationelle des ressources naturelles du basin conventionnel du lac Tchad;

(l) ECA position on Sub-Saharan Africa Transport Programme (SSATP);

(m) Future restructuring and development of African railways and rail transport;

(n) Proposals to activate the implementation of the Yamoussoukro Declaration;

(o) Evaluation of the implementation of the Yamoussoukro Declaration;

(p) Focus on African Industry;

(q) Selected technologies available with or without licensing in the context of IDDA II;

(r) Factors in enterprise formation in African countries;

(s) Study on the development of repair and maintenance of industrial facilities in Africa;

(t) Possibilities and perspectives on development of petro-chemical industries in North Africa on the basis of local reserves of oil and gas;

(u) Building materials and construction industries in Africa: Constraints to and prospects for socio-economic development;

(v) Influence of economic policies on science and technology development in Africa; and

(w) Technology assessment in Africa.

83. In addition, advisory services were provided to several member States and IGOs in:

(a) General transport and communications policy, as well as in specific areas of maritime transport and ports, inland and multimodal transport, roads, railways, air transport, telecommunications and postal services;

(b) Enhancing capacity in the formulation of appropriate industrial technological and capacity-building policies; and

(c) Science and technology promotion.

84. Specifically these advisory services included:

(a) Telecommunications: Provided technical support to the fifth ordinary session of the Pan-African Telecommunications Union (PATU) meeting of plenipotentiaries on the selection of the new Secretary-General and preparation of the work programme of PATU, Kampala, Uganda;

(b) Railways:

- (i) Advised member States at the twenty-second General Assembly of the Union of African Railways (UAR) on issues of restructuring, improvement of service and maintenance of African railways, Lusaka, Zambia;
- (ii) Participated in and moderated a policy seminar on locomotion maintenance, Namibia, organized by the World Bank and UAR for SADC countries;
- (iii) Missions to Morocco and Tunisia;

(c) Maritime transport and ports:

- (i) Supervised the marketing study for the establishment of a coastal shipping company in the West and Central African subregion;
- (ii) Provided assistance to the three port management associations in the preparation of their work programmes;

(iii) Participated in the training seminar at the Alexandria Maritime Academy, Alexandria, Egypt.

(d) Roads:

(i) Participated in the sixth World Congress of La Prévention Routière Internationale (PRI), in Cape Town, South Africa;

(ii) Participated in the twelfth joint meeting of the Working Groups on Road Infrastructure, Road Traffic and Transport of SADC, Arusha, the United Republic of Tanzania;

(e) Air transport:

(i) Participated in seminar on the restructuring of airline companies in SADC region, Windhoek, Namibia;

(ii) Participated in twenty-second meeting of directors of civil aviation and airline companies in the SADC region;

(iii) Participated in diagnostic study on air transport in Africa, organized by ADB and OAU;

(iv) Organized and serviced an ad hoc working group meeting to prepare Africa's position paper to the fourth World Conference on Air Transport;

(f) Multimodal transport: Sensitized member States on the impact of oversized (non-International Standards Organization) containers on the transport systems in the region;

(g) Inland water transport:

(i) Provided assistance to Chad in undertaking a study on the improvement of navigation on the inland water system of Chari-Logone-Lake Chad;

(ii) Provided assistance to LCBC in the preparation of a bankable project in transport;

(iii) Provided assistance to CEPGL in the study of needs assessment for dredging of ports on Lake Kivu and a study on maintenance of navigable waterways on Lakes Kivu and Tanganyika;

(h) General transport and communications policy:

(i) Assistance to the North African Transport Committee in preparation and implementation of its work programme;

(ii) Assessment of infrastructure capacity building in Morocco;

(i) Science and technology:

(i) Provided assistance to the Congo on the revitalization of its science and technology institutions and gearing their programmes to the socio-economic regime ushered in by the structural adjustment programmes and the liberalization of the world economy;

(ii) Provided technical and administrative backstopping to the African Regional Centre for Technology (ARCT) and the African Regional Organization for Standardization (ARSO) in programme development and institutional management;

(iii) Participated in and provided technical advice to the twelfth ordinary meeting of the Executive Board of ARCT, Dakar, Senegal, 15-16 May 1994 and the ninth General Assembly of ARSO, Mauritius, 23-25 January 1995;

(iv) Assisted the Steering Committee of the African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPSN) in the review of various research proposals submitted by scholars from all over Africa;

(j) Sustainable industrial development:

(i) Provided assistance to the Government of Ethiopia in reviewing the energy consumption and production costs on Wonji/Shoa sugar factory, with a view to proposing measures for energy and production cost efficiency;

(ii) Assisted the Government of Zimbabwe in reviewing its policy on diesel fuel development;

(iii) Assisted the Government of Malawi to review its iron development project.

85. The secretariat significantly strengthened its collaboration with subregional, regional and international IGOs and NGOs, especially in the area of science and technology. This was demonstrated in the following activities:

(a) Collaborated with the OAU Secretariat in organizing a roundtable on the science and technology protocol of the African Economic Community;

(b) Participated in the second Presidential Forum, organized by the Research and Development Forum for Science-led Development in Africa (RANDFORUM), at which the secretariat contributed to the discussion on the mobilization of Africa's development-oriented scientific talents and management skills;

(c) Participated in brainstorming exercise on science and technology capacity building for Africa convened by the Carnegie Corporation;

(d) Organized, in collaboration with the Foundation for Research Development (FRD), a meeting of the Southern African Working Group on Science and Technology which reviewed ways to stimulate subregional cooperation in science and technology;

(e) Collaborated with the International Ocean Institute (IOI) and ARCT in carrying out a feasibility study on the establishment, in Dakar, of an IOI centre for training and policy research in marine affairs; and

(f) Participated in the fourth World Conference on Air Transport organized by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

86. The programme for the implementation of UNTACDA II included the provisions for continuous monitoring at all levels. In response to this requirement, an evaluation was carried out to assess the cohesiveness of the whole UNTACDA II programme, its global and sectoral objectives, strategies and projects; the effectiveness of the various organs in the institutional mechanism for its implementation; and the progress achieved as well as problems encountered in its implementation. The conclusions drawn from these assessments formed the basis for drawing up an action programme for the next phase of the programme.

87. The findings of the evaluation were considered by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport and Communications at its tenth meeting in March 1995. In reaffirming the continued relevance of the UNTACDA II programme, the Ministers took several decisions for a more rapid implementation of the programme, including the need to fully support the various organs of the institutional mechanism of the programme. Specifically, the Ministers called on:

(a) Member States to support the national coordination mechanism and respect the priority agreed on for projects to be implemented;

(b) The financial institutions and agencies to continue supporting the programme;

(c) The IGOs to incorporate UNTACDA II activities into their work programmes;

(d) The United Nations General Assembly to increase financial allocations to ECA in support of the programme; and

(e) The United Nations agencies and organizations to coordinate their activities in Africa with UNTACDA II.

88. In addition, the Ministers approved a programme of action for 1995-1997 with emphasis on the implementation of projects which have direct impact on regional integration whether at national, subregional or regional level. The regional component of the action programme concentrates on four areas of activities: human resource and institutional development; regional cooperation; management information systems; and seminars and workshops on policies and strategies. A total of 20 projects have been identified and their implementation will require continued coordinating and close cooperation among the United Nations agencies and organizations as well as with the African subregional and regional IGOs.

89. Besides the evaluation, other activities were carried out for the implementation of specific regional projects of the UNTACDA II programme, namely human resource and institutional development, transport database, the establishment of the single bureau for the Trans-African Highways Authorities, and the Yamoussoukro Declaration on a New African Air Transport Policy. The key activities carried out were:

(a) Human resource and institutional development: Missions were undertaken to Sierra Leone to initiate activities in that pilot country. Negotiations continue with Madagascar as another pilot country;

(b) Transport database: The first phase of the project was completed with the definition of performance indicators for all modes of transport and methodologies for data collection as well as the creation of a network among pilot countries and participating institutions. Activities were initiated for the second phase with focus on the problems regarding the establishment of the regional transport database at ECA, and a project proposal has been prepared for implementation of the second phase;

(c) Trans-African Highways Bureau: The secretariat continued contacts with member States to sign and ratify the Statutes and make the required financial contributions;

(d) Yamoussoukro Declaration on a New African Air Transport Policy: A special meeting of African Ministers responsible for Civil Aviation was organized in Mauritius, at which several key measures were adopted for implementation. Subsequently, the secretariat followed up on these decisions, in cooperation with the coordinating Ministers of the respective subregions and serviced follow-up meetings in the Central African as well as in Eastern and Southern African subregions.

Women in development

90. During the period under review, activities under this subprogramme mainly focused on the economic and political empowerment of women in Africa. Particular attention was also given to the preparation for the fifth Regional Conference on Women and the fourth World Conference on Women.

91. A major activity was the convening of the fifth African Regional Conference on Women, in Dakar, Senegal in November 1994. The conference was organized around five thematic issues which were discussed against corresponding background documents prepared by ECA and other United Nations agencies.

92. The major outcome of the conference was the African Platform for Action which provides a framework for action for the formulation of policies and implementation of concrete and sustainable programmes for the advancement of women, as well as the regional input in the Global Platform for Action to be adopted at the fourth World Conference to be held in Beijing, China, in September 1995.

93. Prior to the regional conference, a series of preparatory activities were carried out. These included, inter alia, the following:

(a) Subregional workshops on writing of the national reports as well as consensus building around the draft Platform for Action;

(b) Two regional ad hoc expert group meetings; and

(c) Southern and Eastern Subregional Workshop to discuss the Platform for Action.

94. The secretariat organized the sixteenth meeting of the Africa Regional Coordinating Committee for the integration of women in development (ARCC). The meeting deliberated on the preparations of the fourth World Conference; discussed the draft guidelines for the implementation for the African Platform for Action and came up with recommendations for the integration of gender concerns into development policies, programmes and plans of the continent.

95. A number of documents, including reports and publications on preparatory activities to the Regional and World Conference, as well as on issues to enhance the awareness of women, were produced and widely disseminated. These included the following:

(a) The African Platform for Action;

(b) The African Woman Today: An overview assessment of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies;

(c) Femmeline, on the preparatory activities of the fifth Regional Conference on Women;

(d) Roll Call of Africa's Distinguished Daughters;

(e) International legal instruments relevant to women; and

(f) Guidelines for the implementation of the African Platform for Action.

96. To further publicize the Regional and World Conferences, the secretariat organized, with the Union of National Radio and Television Organizations in Africa (URTNA), for the airing of radio spots announcing details about the Conferences through national radio and television networks. A film production competition with the objective of encouraging the work of women artists and women in general in Africa was sponsored by the secretariat in collaboration with URTNA. The winners were from Cameroon, Namibia and Nigeria.

97. Wide consultations were held with the international community in order to mobilize their support to the benefit of African women in general, for sharing regional experiences on the implementation of programmes in favour of women's advancement and on regional comparison in terms of issues to be addressed at the fourth World Conference. These included:

(a) Participation in the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Regional Preparatory Meeting for the fourth World Conference on Women; and

(b) Participation in an International Round-Table on Women's Potential to Overcome Poverty, organized by the German Foundation for International Development.

98. With regard to the economic empowerment of women, the secretariat, in collaboration with OAU, completed the study on practical modalities for setting up a regional financial institution for women and ensuring its establishment and take-off. Subsequently, an ad hoc expert group meeting was also organized to consider modalities for setting up the regional financial institution for women which could cater for needs of African women at all levels. In addition, a Forum of women entrepreneurs was organized for an in-depth exchange of information on business opportunities in the manufacturing, trade and services sectors.

Multidisciplinary Regional Advisory Group

99. The advisory services provided by the ECA Multidisciplinary Regional Advisory Group (MRAG) during the review period focused on:

(a) A new approach to regional integration that emphasized the integration of the physical, institutional and social infrastructures; and the integration of production structures and trade;

(b) Enhancing the participation of all socio-economic groups in the economic integration process;

(c) Adoption at the level of each subregional economic community and that of the African Economic Community common policies in the fields of agriculture, industry, energy, transport and trade;

(d) Establishment of national institutions and mechanisms responsible for implementing both subregional and regional programmes, as well as strengthening the human capacity requirements for the implementation of protocols, decisions and acts at these levels; and

(e) Provision of substantive support to meetings, workshops and seminars on a wide range of socio-economic development issues designed to ensure better and more effective programme planning, implementation and monitoring.

100. In the areas related to development issues and policies, emphasis has been placed on strategies for balancing adjustment with socio-economic development and transformation needs of African countries. Issues of debt management, public finance macro-economic management and resource flows have been prominent under the subprogramme. Efforts continued to be made to strengthen capabilities for development planning and the formulation of national and subregional macro- and sectoral development policies and strategies. Assistance was provided in the development of statistics for the formulation and monitoring of socio-economic development policy with particular emphasis on social and human development statistics as well as for the strengthening of statistical development capacities.

101. With regard to economic cooperation and integration, assistance concentrated on further strengthening institutional and human capacities for advancing the goals of the subregional economic communities as well as the African Economic Community. Special attention was paid to augmenting the gains registered in invigorating the Arab Maghreb Union of the North African countries and of establishing mechanisms for strengthening the process of economic integration in the North African subregion.

102. Issues addressed under poverty alleviation included the formulation and implementation of appropriate and coherent agricultural development policies, plans and programmes, strategies for sustainability in food production and food security and measures for relaunching rural development and for strengthening agricultural support services. Training activities were also carried out to develop planning, programming and marketing skills in the agriculture sector.

103. Within the context of the implementation of Agenda 21 on environment and sustainable development, member States were assisted in their efforts to incorporate the environmental dimension into the socio-economic development planning process. Training was also provided to strengthen capacities for undertaking environmental impact assessment. The region's preoccupation with its energy problems was equally taken into consideration in the delivery of assistance. Efforts were intensified to promote new sources of energy and to strengthen capacity for energy policy formulation and planning.

104. In the field of development administration and management, particular attention was paid to issues of governance, ethics and accountability, the development of local consulting capacity, improvement in the efficiency and productivity of the public service and capacity building. Assistance in the form of advisory services and training was provided in support of member States' privatization and entrepreneurship development efforts.

105. Regarding employment and human resources development and planning, particular emphasis was placed on articulating strategies for developing and better utilizing human capacities. Employment programmes, strategies and plans were also addressed as were issues of the brain-drain and the overall utilization of human resources in Africa.

106. Assistance was provided to member States in the field of industrial and technological development and promotion, particularly within the context of the goals and strategies of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa programme. Equally, advisory services and training were provided to strengthen development information capacities and systems in African countries and to develop norms and standards for harmonizing documentation and information activities and computerized information management techniques.

107. Within the context of the regional activities undertaken in preparation for the Beijing World Conference on Women, the programme provided technical support and advisory services on gender, women and development to member States and helped forge a consensus on a regional position which was articulated in the African Platform for Action.

C. *Relations with other United Nations programmes*

108. The Commission continued to maintain close working relationship with other agencies of the United Nations system in areas of common interest. Such

relationships were particularly exploited in the preparation and implementation of global and regional programmes calling for co-ordinated actions.

109. Collaborative activities with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) were intensified and included activities in the area of information technology, social issues, marine affairs and science and technology. These specifically included:

(a) The organization of an international symposium on telematics in Addis Ababa, jointly with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU);

(b) The promotion of regional and sub-regional cooperation in the field of marine affairs through interaction with the Indian Ocean Marine Affairs Cooperation (IOMAC at Sri Lanka) and the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC);

(c) Participation in the Donors Conference on University-Science Partnership Programme in Africa convened by UNESCO in December 1994;

(d) Participation in an international con-ference entitled "Audience Africa" in Paris from 6 to 10 February 1995;

(e) Participation in an ad hoc inter-agency consultation on the follow-up of chapter 35 of Agenda 21: Science for sustainable development, convened by UNESCO in March 1994.

110. In addition to activities carried out under the Joint UNCTAD/ECA Unit, the secretariat further enhanced its collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) by providing assistance to member States and IGOs in their efforts to promote trade, private sector development and investment as well as natural resources and energy development. This was demonstrated through the following activities:

(a) The organization of an International Conference to Assess the Impact of the Uruguay Round on African Economies, in Tunisia in October 1994, in collaboration with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the Organization of African Unity (OAU);

(b) Participation in the workshop on selected cooperation aspects for technological capacity building in developing countries, April 1995;

(c) Participation in the third session of the UNCTAD Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Iron Ore, which met at Geneva in October 1994;

(d) Participation in an Expert Group Meeting on Women in Development in the Least Developed Countries, organized by UNCTAD from 24 to 26 January 1995 to review the situation of women in the LDCs and recommend measures to improve their participation in the social and productive sectors as well as in mainstream development.

111. In dealing with Africa's debt problems, the Commission worked closely with the World Bank. Specific activities undertaken included:

(a) Developing a database at the ECA on "Africa's external debt profile" in collaboration with the World Bank in order to strengthen ECA's capacity to provide timely and quality technical assistance and advisory services to African countries on the issues of debt;

(b) Holding of an Expert Group Meeting on "Techniques for Debt Conversions/Swaps and Application of the World Bank Debt Extract System";

(c) Organizing a training seminar on the use of the software, February 1995.

112. The secretariat also collaborated with the Economic Development Institute (EDI) of the World Bank in the organization of the subregional workshop on "Environmental sustainability and energy development" in Addis Ababa from 6 to 10 March 1995 and which was attended by 25 senior officials from four IGADD member States. It also provided a resource person to the World Bank-MIGA Executive Development Programme for the African Mining Investment Conference, which took place in Harare, Zimbabwe, in May 1994, and contributed a paper entitled "New trends in African mining legislation and investment codes".

113. Implementation of activities in the areas of population and statistics were considerably facilitated by the enhanced coordination and collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Advisers provided under UNFPA Country Support Teams and advisory services to member States in the areas of vital registration, population censuses including censuses of refugees; census cartography and mapping and data processing. Likewise, the Commission participated in the preparatory meetings organized by UNFPA for the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD.94), and UNFPA Inter-Agency Task Force on technical support services.

114. In the field of environment and sustainable development, focus was mainly to promote the effective participation of African countries in the implementation of policies and strategies of relevance to the region's environmental development and management. In this respect, sustained actions have been carried out jointly by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), ECA and OAU to:

(a) Prepare Africa for the first meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological

Diversity which was held in the Bahamas in November-December 1994;

(b) Promote effective participation of African countries in the conventions of relevance to the region, in order to protect African interests at various forums.

115. Within the broad framework of the global Plan of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States adopted by the first Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), held in April-May 1994, and ECA's Strategy and Programme of Action for marine/ocean development in Africa, an ad hoc expert group meeting was organized by ECA. This was carried out in close cooperation with UNEP's Ocean and Coastal Areas Programme of Action Centre (OCA/PAC), in Addis Ababa in November 1994, to assess the contribu-tion of the coastal/marine sector to the gross national product (GNP). Guidelines of the methodologies for the assessment exercise were adopted for implementation to be monitored through joint follow-up activities.

116. Furthermore, series of supportive actions were provided to or by UNEP and included the following:

(a) Preparation of an African Common Position on Natural Disaster Reduction, jointly by ECA, UNEP, the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) Secretariat and OAU, and was submitted to the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction in Yokohama in May 1994. Follow-up activities carried out jointly included a subregional workshop held in Gaborone in November 1994 and continuing consultations for further activities;

(b) Contribution of the secretariat in the redesign of UNEP energy and transport policies in participating in the senior advisory group meetings in Paris in September and November 1994.

117. As in the past, ECA worked closely with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and OAU on a number of regional programmes during the period under review. In September 1994, ECA hosted the fifteenth meeting of the Joint Committee of the OAU, ECA and UNIDO Secretariats on the implementation of the programme for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA II).

118. UNIDO, in cooperation with ECA, mounted industrial sector programme and review field missions to groups of African countries with a view to holding discussions with all stakeholders in the industrialization of the country, notably the private sector, and to reach a consensus on main industrial priorities, the revision of the IDDA national programme and the major features of a UNIDO support programme for the country. The field missions visited the following groups of countries in November 1994: West Africa: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Nigeria and Togo; Eastern and Southern Africa: Botswana, Kenya, Namibia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

119. In November 1994, at the invitation of UNIDO, a meeting of technical experts of OAU, ECA, ADB and UNIDO as well as external advisers was held at UNIDO headquarters in Vienna with a view to preparing for a meeting of the chief executives of the four organizations to exchange views and agree on a common approach to providing assistance to African countries and organizations in their industrial development endeavour.

120. ECA participated in the activities of other agencies, including the preparation and contribution of papers to:

(a) OAU, UNIDO and ADB private sector expert group meeting on the industrialization of Africa held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in January 1995, organized jointly by UNIDO and the Africa Business Round-Table in cooperation with the Government of Côte d'Ivoire. The main objective of the meeting was to exchange views and identify ways and means of intensifying the participation of the private sector in the industrial development efforts of the African countries;

(b) Inter-agency consultations on chapter 34 of Agenda 21: Transfer of environmentally sound technology cooperation and capacity building, convened by UNIDO in September 1994;

121. In promoting the role of cartography and remote sensing to the management of natural resources, the secretariat, in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), organized in July 1994 the technical and donor consultative meetings on the AFRICOVER project, whose overall objective is to strengthen the capacities of African countries to manage their natural resources sustainability with particular emphasis on food security and environmental protection, and in March 1995, the first preparatory meeting of the Pan-African Conference on Information and Communication Technologies in Agriculture and the Environment, scheduled for November 1995.

122. The African Centre for Women was also invited to participate in a workshop organized by FAO in Addis Ababa from 22 to 24 February 1995 to discuss "Guidelines for integrating gender issues in participatory approaches for rural development". The draft guidelines had been developed by FAO following the completion of a research project carried out in three rural communities in Ethiopia using the participatory rural appraisal (PRA) and the FAO gender analysis framework to assess the needs of the three communities.

123. Within the framework of joint implementation of activities, ECA, in collaboration with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) organized and convened a Conference on Water Resources: Policy and Assessment, in Addis Ababa from 20 to 25 March 1995. The conference focused on five themes, namely:

(a) The role of water scarcity and water stress;

(b) Institutional arrangements for water resources assessment and management;

(c) Water resources monitoring systems and economic value;

(d) Capacity building, manpower development and technological trends; and

(e) Water policy, strategy and action plan for water resources assessment.

The recommendations of the five themes were used as a guide by five subregional groupings to formulate the action plan as they saw fit and appropriate for their specific subregions. The outcome was a harmonized and comprehensive action plan for water resources assessment for the African region.

124. The secretariat maintained close collaboration with other United Nations bodies through greater inter-agency cooperation including meetings, preparation of documents, etc. Among the many inter-agency activities carried out, the most significant were:

(a) The preparation and publication of the proceedings of the discussion forum on the "Problematique of financing development in Africa", with contributions from the GATT, UNCTAD, ADB and the World Bank;

(b) Implementation of selected activities under the second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa programme. Specifically, these were in the following areas:

(i) Resource mobilization through the Resource Mobilization Committee (RMC) composed of ADB, the World Bank, the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group Secretariat, OAU, UNIDO, ITU, UNCTAD, UNDP, the Universal Postal Union (UPU), the Union of African Railways (UAR) and the secretariats of the five African regional economic communities. The RMC held two meetings during this period, specifically to review the evaluation report;

(ii) Provision of technical input for the implementation of the Decade activities through the Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee (IACC) which groups all the relevant United Nations agencies and organizations and African IGOs. The IACC met twice during the period - in Abidjan in November 1994 and Addis Ababa in March 1995 - to prepare for the tenth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport and Communications;

(iii) Implementation of projects within the framework of the Decade programme, namely:

a. Sub-Saharan Africa Transport Policy Programme (SSATP): Discussions continued with the World Bank on the harmonization of SSATP and UNTACDA II. An evaluation meeting on SSATP was held in Paris in February at which ECA participated. ECA also participated in the ninth RMI/RTTP Coordinating Committee Meeting in Lusaka, Zambia; and

b. Human resource and institutional development: The programme is being jointly implemented by ECA, the World Bank, UNCTAD, ITU, the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) with financial support from UNDP.

125. In the context of the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, ECA maintained close working relationship with other United Nations agencies. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNEP, UNFPA, ILO, UNESCO and OAU all contributed to the preparations of technical papers in their respective fields of activities for the fifth Regional Conference on Women. Furthermore, the Inter-Agency Task Force composed of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), OAU, UNDP, ADB, UNICEF and the African Women's Development and Communications Network (FEMNET), convenor of the African NGO Forum, has been entrusted with the coordination of the activities of the fifth Regional and the fourth World Conference on Women.

126. The secretariat also worked with other units of the United Nations in the coordination of development activities in favour of Africa. These included:

(a) Participation in the Expert Forum on Demand Reduction in West Africa, organized by the United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), in collaboration with the International Council on Alcohol and Addiction, in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 6 to 10 February 1995;

(b) Participation in the third Intergovernmental Meeting on Phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade in Asia, upon the invitation of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP);

(c) Participation in the WHO/OAU HIV/AIDS inter-agency meeting on AIDS held in Tunis, Tunisia on 23 and 24 February 1995;

(d) Preparation of a joint ECA/UNICEF publication entitled "Atlas of the African Child";

(e) Organization of major regional meetings and national conferences in collaboration with UNICEF and member States such as: The Regional Consultation on the Impact of Armed Conflict on Children; and Famine in Ethiopia;

(f) Participation in the twenty-eighth session of the Population Commission, 21 February to 2 March 1995, the International Conference on Population and Development, in Cairo, in September 1994, and at the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) Sub-Committee Meeting on population estimates and projections, in June/July 1994;

(g) Collaboration with the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis (DESIPA), in particular the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD) for the organization of joint Intergovernmental workshops in the area of statistical computing; civil registration and vital statistics systems;

(h) Participation in the United Nations Statistical Commission and the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities, including the provision of substantive support to the meeting of the Task Force on International Trade Statistics, held in November 1994;

(i) Convening of an important conference on water resources with WMO and other organizations;

(j) Collaboration with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on isotope techniques for water resources assessment;

(k) Training of senior national meteorologists and dissemination of relevant meteorological products through the programme of work of the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), in close cooperation with WMO;

(l) Organization of a workshop on project management, under the sponsorship of the Office of Human Resources Management of the United Nations Secretariat in New York;

(m) Implementation of a field project entitled "Sustainable agriculture and environmental rehabilitation and reconstruction" in Ethiopia. This UNDP-funded project is to demonstrate the effect of the full and active participation of beneficiaries in the project cycle so as to ensure sustainable interest and commitment.

CHAPTER III

THIRTIETH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION AND TWENTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS

A. *Attendance and organization of work*

127. The thirtieth session of the Commission/-twenty-first meeting of the Conference of Ministers responsible for economic and social development and planning was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 1 to 3 May 1995. At its commencement, the meeting observed a minute of silence in meditation. The meeting was formally opened by H.E. Ato Tamrat Layne, Prime Minister of the Transitional Government of Ethiopia. The Secretary-General of the United Nations sent a message which was read to the Conference. Statements were also delivered at the opening ceremony by Mr. M.D. Sarr, Acting Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa; H.E. Ambassador Brownson Dede, Assistant Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity; H.E. Mr. See-Young Lee, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea and special guest of the Commission; and Ms. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, United Nations Development Programme Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa. H.E. Mr. Mustapha Kamel Nabli, Minister of Economic Development of Tunisia, outgoing Chairman of the twenty-ninth session of the Commission, read out a statement. Mr. J. Denis Belisle, Executive Director of the International Trade Centre, made a statement to the Conference. Hon. J.L.T. Mothibamele, M.P., Assistant Minister of Finance and Development Planning of Botswana, moved a vote of thanks on behalf of participants.

128. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following member States of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, the Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

129. Observers from the following Member States of the United Nations were present: Austria, Belgium, China, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Japan, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, Spain and Turkey.

130. The Holy See and Palestine, not Members of the United Nations, were also represented.

131. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented: Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development (DPCSD), Regional Commissions New York Office (RCNYO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT, World Food Programme (WFP), International Labour Organisation (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Health Organization (WHO), World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

132. The Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the African Development Bank (ADB) were represented.

133. Observers were present from the following intergovernmental organizations: African Association for Public Administration and Management (AAPAM), African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP), African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development (ACARTSOD), African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP), African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI), African Regional Centre for Engineering, Design and Manufacturing (ARCEDEM), African Regional Organization for Standardization (ARSO), Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization (AAPSO), Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL), European Union (EU), Eastern and Southern African Management Institute (ESAMI), *Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques* (IFORD), Islamic Development Bank (IDB), League of Arab States (LAS), Regional Centre for Training in Aerospace Surveys (RECTAS), Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS), Research and Development Forum for *Science-led Development in Africa* (RANDFORUM).

134. The Conference elected the following officers:

Chairman:	Ethiopia
First Vice-Chairman:	Gabon
Second Vice-Chairman:	Algeria
Rapporteur:	Sierra Leone

B. *Agenda*

135. On 1 May 1995, the Conference adopted the following agenda:

Conference theme:
Promoting accelerated growth and sustainable development in Africa through the building of critical capacities

1. Opening of the meeting.

2. Election of officers.

3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

4. Policy debate on:

   Perspective of Africa's socio-economic development;

   Promoting accelerated growth and sustainable development in Africa through the building of critical capacities.

5. Consideration of the report and recommendations of the sixteenth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole on:

   (a) Economic and social situation in Africa, 1995;

   (b) Prospects for the implementation of the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community and other issues in regional cooperation and integration;

   (c) Progress report on a framework agenda for building and utilizing critical capacities in Africa;

   (d) Regional cooperation for development in Africa:

      (i) Preparation and follow-up to regional and international conferences and programmes;

      (ii) Reviving private investments in Africa: Policies, strategies and programmes;

      (iii) Human development in Africa, 1995 report;

      (iv) Socio-economic empowerment of women: Establishment of the African bank for women: Progress report;

      (v) Food and agricultural production, food security and food self-sufficiency in Africa;

   (e) Statutory issues:

   Issues from subsidiary organs and sectoral bodies of the Commission calling for action by the Conference of Ministers;

   (f) Programme of work and priorities of the Commission:

      (i) Proposed organizational structure and programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1996-1997;

      (ii) Programme evaluation at ECA;

   (g) Strengthening the operational capacity of ECA: Programme of technical cooperation under the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD).

6. Pledging Conference for the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD).

7. Any other business.

8. Date and venue of the thirty-first session of the Commission/twenty-second meeting of the Conference of Ministers.

9. Adoption of the report.

10. Closure of the meeting.

C. *Account of proceedings*

Opening addresses

136. In his opening statement, H.E. Ato Tamrat Layne, Prime Minister of the Transitional Government of Ethiopia, welcomed participants to Addis Ababa. He remarked that the Conference was taking place at a time when Ethiopia was preparing for a general election and that participants might find Ethiopia's efforts to promote free, fair and orderly voting of interest.

137. He noted that there could not be a more important and challenging topic for the Conference than the present one, "Promoting accelerated growth and sustainable development in Africa through the building of critical capacities", in view of the disappointing economic performance of the continent over the last 30 years which had been characterized by unprecedented high rates of population growth, stagnant or declining food production and declining standards of living. He observed that, from the experience of other countries in East Asia and Latin America, Africa should learn that escaping from poverty was possible. Only a few years ago, the economies of some of these Asian and Latin American countries were at the present level of African development but now their economies were comparable to those of developed countries. He noted that the countries of Asia and Latin America developed themselves and that if Africa had to develop, it had to develop itself.

138. The Prime Minister observed that many of the now successful economies made progress by copying the techniques of production used in the technologically leading countries of the day. The newly industrializing countries owed much to the importation and efficient use of foreign techniques of production. However, introduction of new techniques required capacities that permitted their efficient use. Capacity development, in turn, required political stability which had to be promoted through democratic governance and a private sector which had to be promoted to transfer technology successfully to where it was needed. He emphasized that Africa should recognize that both the private sector and governments had important roles to play in social and economic development.

139. He emphasized that Africa should look within, instead of blaming others concerning its development problems. For example, he noted that attacks directed to the World Bank, the IMF or other institutions against structural adjustment programmes (SAPs) were unnecessary, as Africans, in control of their destiny, should be guiding development partners and institutions on how to assist Africa to deal with its economic problems.

140. He informed the meeting that Ethiopia had introduced a macroeconomic policy that was market-oriented and encouraged the private sector to engage in production in all sectors. Moreover, the Government was introducing, extending and strengthening the institutions needed for economic growth and development in the country. The role of government would continue to be important in areas such as agricultural research and extension work, provision of health and education services, and provision of policy and administrative environment that stimulated development efforts at all levels.

141. He concluded by emphasizing that the provision of education, development of human skills and availability of health care to the vast majority of the people, including women in the rural areas, were essential for the production of goods and services. He underlined that since most of Africa's population lived in rural areas, peasant agriculture and rural development must be given the right priority in development. He informed the meeting that these were the main components of economic development strategies being pursued by the Transitional Government of Ethiopia.

142. In a message read on his behalf, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Secretary-General of the United Nations, stated that the theme of this year's meeting, namely "Promoting accelerated growth and sustainable development in Africa through the building of critical capacities", was important as the pace of change had accelerated in Africa and elsewhere.

143. The Secretary-General noted that the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community had come into force and that ECA, OAU and ADB were in the process of establishing the necessary mechanisms for the Treaty's implementation, in close cooperation with the various economic communities already established in the continent. He expressed particular pleasure that South Africa had become a full member of the Commission at a time when the implementation of the Abuja Treaty was gaining momentum.

144. The Secretary-General referred to the Cairo Agenda for Action for relaunching African development adopted by the special session of the OAU Council of Foreign Ministers (1995); the issues raised by the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD.94), the World Summit for Social Development which was held in Copenhagen, Denmark (1995); and those recommendations that will result from the World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing in September 1995, and emphasized that African countries needed to pay particular attention to the linkages among several issues as they implemented the various recommendations from these major events.

145. The Secretary-General stressed that African countries must seize and retain the initiatives for their own development. This required furthering economic and social reforms as well as establishing a more supportive political environment for development, including greater democracy, better governance and increase political stability.

146. The Secretary-General underlined that African development also required international understanding of and support for Africa's efforts. He pointed out that the international community had committed itself to this objective in the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, adopted by the General Assembly in December 1991. He reiterated that the United Nations system remained steadfast in its commitment to the implementation of

the New Agenda, and to the system-wide plan of action formulated in 1992 and revised in 1994. He informed the meeting that in 1995 ECOSOC would devote its high-level segment to Africa's economic recovery and development and that he was hopeful that these discussions would provide valuable inputs to the African initiative which was in progress under the auspices of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC).

147. In conclusion, the Secretary-General emphasized the particular importance of the regional commissions as a source of initiatives and as key actors for development of their regions. He assured the meeting that he would continue to work to strengthen the regional commissions and that he was determined that ECA should continue to play a positive role and be a source for creative solutions to Africa's development challenges.

148. The Acting Executive Secretary of ECA welcomed participants to the thirtieth session of the Commission/twenty-first meeting of the Conference of Ministers responsible for economic and social development and planning. He renewed to President Meles Zenawi, as well as to the Government and people of Ethiopia, through H.E. Tamrat Layne, Prime Minister of the Government of Ethiopia, ECA's appreciation for the continued support it had always enjoyed in conducting its activities in the service of member States.

149. He acknowledged the presence of H.E. Mr. See-Young Lee, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea and special guest of the Commission. He expressed the belief that given Korea's remarkable experience in the area of economic and social development and structural transformation, the interest thus shown in the Commission's member States as well as its secretariat boded well for strengthening Africa's cooperation with Korea in particular and Asia in general, in furtherance of the conclusions of the Bandung Forum held in Indonesia in December 1994.

150. The Acting Executive Secretary expressed ECA's appreciation to Ambassador Brownson Dede, Assistant Secretary-General of OAU, and to Mrs. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, Director of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa, for the close cooperation their organizations maintained with the Commission. He underlined that this cooperative approach would assume great importance with the world-wide trends in regional approaches towards the promotion of sustained growth and development, and the implementation of the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community whose monitoring and promotion had been entrusted to the Joint OAU/ECA/ADB Secretariat.

151. He remarked that the Conference was taking place at a time when the secretariat was acquiring a new structure which would become operational upon the assumption of duty in June 1995 of the incoming ECA Executive Secretary, Mr. Kingsley Amoako. He paid tribute to Mr. Layashi Yaker, former Executive Secretary of ECA, who recently left the Commission upon the completion of his assignment.

152. Turning to the economic and social situation in Africa, the Acting Executive Secretary noted that the situation remained disturbing, notwithstanding the few encouraging signs in the form of modest improvements in the rate of GDP growth. He underlined that the modest improvement was contrasted by the continuing fall in the average per capita income in the region, weak productive sectors which were not able to play their roles as major engines of growth, low savings and investment rates, little and declining contribution to world trade, minimal attraction of foreign private investments, a disturbing external debt accumulation and worsening social conditions caused by civil disturbances and inequalities. These negative factors had contributed to Africa's widespread poverty.

153. He drew the attention of the Conference to three dramatic developments in the world economic environment that were likely to have far-reaching effects on Africa: the regionalization of development as exemplified by the expanding European Union, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) scheme; the Uruguay Round negotiations and the coming into effect of the World Trade Organization (WTO) whose impact on previous arrangements, such as the Lome Convention and the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), might initially prove negative to Africa; and the revolution in the area of information, marked, particularly, by the proliferation of networks which had become the main vehicles for economic and financial data throughout the world, and essential instruments for decision making. He underlined that these developments required effective responses from African countries, individually and collectively, in order to adapt themselves to evolving global developments.

154. He observed that Africa was ready to take up the domestic and external challenges judging from the significant progress already made in terms of democracy, human rights, transparency in the management of public affairs, the economic reforms being vigorously pursued, the coming into force of the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community, the strengthening of subregional economic communities, among others. He stressed that African leaders were increasingly becoming aware of the important role that their countries had to play in the quest for sustained growth and development as indicated by the Cairo Agenda which placed special emphasis on peace, stability, human resource development and critical capacity building, food self-sufficiency and security, development financing, the structural transformation of African economies and regional cooperation and integration.

155. The Acting Executive Secretary furthermore stated that the sixteenth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole had considered in-depth issues related to the building of critical capacities to meet the challenges of human development, including the advancement of women, attainment of food self-sufficiency and security, promotion of private investment in Africa and the implementation of the Abuja Treaty, with recommendations for the consideration of this Conference of Ministers. He emphasized that enhanced commitment of the Governments and peoples of Africa, their intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and their development partners, including the United Nations system, and the active participation of the private sector would be needed in order to achieve sustainable growth and development in the region.

156. With regard to private sector participation in the development of the region, he informed the meeting that ECA, in cooperation with other institutions, would be organizing an international conference on private investment in Africa in Accra, Ghana from 7 to 10 November 1995. The idea of this conference would be to formulate and implement practical programmes for the building of critical capacities at the national level and within the context of the subregional cooperation structures.

157. In conclusion, he stressed that for Africa's development partners, three issues remained of major importance, namely external debt, trade and development financing. He expressed the view that negotiations should be conducted at the highest political level for a long-term solution to external bilateral and multilateral debt. This should be done in order to enable Africa to participate fully in international trade by way of securing some flexibility in the implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreements and for Africa, just as other regions in transition, to benefit from official development assistance (ODA), particularly in concessional lending component to finance the building of infrastructural facilities and social programmes which would go to enhance its capacities.

158. H.E. Ambassador Brownson Dede, Assistant Secretary-General of OAU, noted that the theme of the Conference represented an issue that dominated the discussions of the recently concluded seventeenth extraordinary session of the OAU Council of Ministers in Cairo. Given this situation, it was incumbent on all African countries to formulate policies consciously and implement programmes to foster accelerated growth and development, on the basis of the region's natural resources and intra-African cooperation.

159. He stressed that Africa must settle internal conflicts and strife in order to create peace, stability and security without which meaningful development could not take place. He underlined that the adverse effects of conflicts on socio-economic development in Africa had included massive destruction of physical and social infrastructure, hundreds of thousands of deaths, millions of refugees and displaced people and that the cost of dealing with emergency relief and humanitarian assistance was more than the money spent on actual development by development agencies.

160. The Assistant Secretary-General referred to the current economic and social conditions in Africa and warned that, in spite of some improvements in the African economies, high inflation rates, the unprecedented collapse in the value of national currencies relative to world major currencies and the high dependency of the African economies on imported manufactured products were some of the factors that should be of concern. He underlined that future prospects depended crucially on increased food production, African industrialization and the building of physical and institutional infrastructures.

161. He recalled that the Cairo Agenda for Action for relaunching Africa's economic and social development underlined the urgency of implementing its recommendations as well as putting priority on what Africans could do for themselves. The sectors of priority in the Cairo Agenda included food security, capacity building, human resources development, industry development, transport and communication development, regional cooperation and integration and the creation of an enabling environment conducive to the promotion of both domestic and foreign investment.

162. He emphasized that, for Africa to be able to implement the Cairo Agenda, all efforts must be directed towards the reduction or cancellation of the debt burden owed by African countries. He further underlined that, as a matter of urgency, the business climate in the region must be improved to allow the private sector to assume its pivotal role in African development. He, however, cautioned that in undertaking measures such as liberalization of the African economies, the measures must be carefully assessed before they were implemented in order to avoid undue economic and social hardship.

163. In conclusion, the Assistant Secretary-General underlined the need for Africa to strengthen its resolve to implement its development programmes from within. He expressed hope that the current restructuring within ADB and ECA would result in enhanced capacity for the two institutions and thus enable them to contribute effectively to the implementation of the Abuja Treaty.

164. H.E. Mr. See-Young Lee, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, expressed his Government's appreciation for the invitation extended to it by the Commission to participate in this twenty-first meeting of the Conference of Ministers responsible for economic and social development and planning and the thirtieth session of the Commission. He thanked the Transitional Government of Ethiopia and the secretariat of ECA for the warm reception and

hospitality extended to his delegation. He expressed the hope that the meeting would serve as an important point of reference for reviewing the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF) at the high-level segment of the substantive session of ECOSOC to be held in July 1995.

165. The Vice-Minister observed that, after experiencing economic slowdown in the early 1990s, the world economy is on the path of recovery with better performance as it entered the second half of the decade, with stronger growth rate of world gross product and increased world trade, although prospects for growth and development in some developing economies remained much less favourable. In particular, the countries in Africa had not been able to benefit from the recovery of the world economy, and the prospects for reversing the trend of declining per capita output and reducing the number of undernourished people still remained dim. Furthermore, the external debt had continued to add an increasing burden and obstacle to development efforts in Africa. Under these dire circumstances, the Republic of Korea deemed it timely and appropriate that ECA had chosen the theme of this meeting as "Promoting accelerated growth and sustainable development in Africa through the building of critical capacities".

166. He expressed his agreement with the vision of the Commission that human resources, institutional capacity building and infrastructure were the three most important interdependent pillars which must support each other if the economic system of the continent had to function and develop effectively and efficiently. He particularly emphasized that human resources and agricultural development should be given top priority in the African region. To strengthen human capacities, bold investment in and vigorous support for basic education and vocational training were essential. In addition, considering the high percentage of women in the population of the region and their potential role in the economy, the policy objectives for empowering women, i.e., the promotion of education for women and increased opportunities for their participation, should be pursued with urgency. On the other hand, there was an urgent need to promote agricultural development in the region where the vast majority of Africa's population lived in rural areas. Efforts directed to human resources development and agricultural revitalization could be supported by financial resources derived from domestic savings and other resources mobilized through appropriate fiscal, monetary and exchange rate policies.

167. He noted that today we live in an increasingly inter-dependent world and that at the threshold of the twenty-first century, no nation would be able to prosper without cooperating with other nations. He informed the Conference that during this year the Korean Government launched the concept of "globalization" as a prime policy objective intended to enable the Korean people to reach out vigorously and seek to live together with all the peoples and nations of the world in harmony and in cooperation for their common, better future.

168. He informed the Conference that, in the spirit of brotherly solidarity, the Republic of Korea was eager to share its experiences of development with Africa and support African efforts in capacity building. He also informed the meeting about Korea's past support to human resources development in the region. In addition, he further informed the meeting that the Government of Korea had decided to establish the Korea-ECA cooperation fund with the objective of supporting Africa's development efforts. He expressed the hope that the establishment of the fund would constitute a modest but determined step forward towards further strengthening the cooperative relations between Korea and Africa. He concluded by expressing his conviction that current African problems could be solved through concerted efforts of national governments and the international community.

169. Mrs. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa, observed that despite all of Africa's initiatives, recent reports suggested that prospects for economic recovery in Africa remained less than satisfactory. It was with this recognition in mind that the OAU Council of Ministers had adopted a document entitled "Relaunching Africa's Economic and Social Development: The Cairo Agenda for Action". It called for seriousness in commitment, on the part of African countries on the one hand and their development partners on the other, in meeting the requirements of the compact set forth in the Cairo Agenda.

170. She noted that experience had shown that for several countries in regions of the developing world, notably East Asia, which had faced similar adverse external conditions as Africa now faced, the one determining factor had been their capacity to formulate and manage economic policy, implement and monitor sound policy measures and react to external shocks and changing global conditions.

171. She informed the meeting that in UNDP's cooperation and partnership with Africa, capacity building was promoted through country programmes and through the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) initiative based in Harare, Zimbabwe. Capacity utilization was pursued through the promotion of an equitable and rewarding incentive system in the civil service and the identification of an appropriate role for participation by other groups in civil society outside the civil service. She observed that capacity retention was largely linked to an overall extenuating local environment of confidence, security of recognition, participation and hope in the future.

172. She stressed that Africa had to commit itself to good and efficient economic management and

protection of democratic principles in order to avoid the ever-pressing problem of the brain-drain. She stated that UNDP had been trying, through its transfer of knowledge through expatriate nationals (TOKTEN) programme to address the problem by making it possible for African expatriates to return home, and that some achievements had been made.

173. The Assistant Administrator observed that, with regard to Africa's debt issue, important relief measures had been provided by Africa's development partners, including the Naples Terms extended by the Paris Club on bilateral debt. Under those terms, eligible debtor countries could reduce their debt stock by 67 per cent. Unfortunately, only a handful of African countries could meet the criteria set by the Naples terms. Moreover, those terms did not cover multilateral debt whose servicing remained an increasing proportion of debt servicing in the African region.

174. She proposed that, in order to overcome the African debt crisis, four solutions were possible, including the seeking of improvements on the Naples Terms; cancelling of the remaining concessional debt owed to the Paris Club; support of innovative measures to reduce multilateral debt; and reduction of private sector debt.

175. In conclusion, the Assistant Administrator informed the meeting that since March 1977, UNDP and ECA had operated under a basic standard agreement which had enabled the two institutions to collaborate very closely on a number of initiatives. She reiterated that UNDP was committed to strengthening this collaboration with ECA in order to ensure the growth of the partnership of the two institutions. She took the opportunity of the meeting to welcome the new Executive Secretary of ECA, Mr. Kingsley Amoako, who would be taking up his appointment soon. Additionally, she commended Mr. Makha D. Sarr, Acting Executive Secretary of ECA, for his continued and able management of the affairs of the Commission during its transition.

176. H.E. Mr. Kamal Al-Nabli, Minister of Economic Development of Tunisia and Chairman of the twentieth meeting of the Conference of Ministers, noted that with the coming into effect of the World Trade Organization and other developments since the last meeting, Africa needs to establish an effective African economic community so as to avoid the marginalization of the continent. He stressed that African countries had to work together to establish peace, stability and welfare for all Africans. Africa should not resort to settle disputes by force, but rule of law should prevail so as to ensure sustainable development and stability in the continent.

177. He noted with regret that the African debt burden constituted a major obstacle to the development process in Africa. He therefore urged the international community to find ways and means of relieving Africa from this debt burden through measures already proposed. On the other hand, he urged African countries to mobilize internal resources to build an integrated African economy. He emphasized, for example, that water and land resources must be developed with a view to attaining food security in the region. Human resources development should similarly be given high priority through education, health care and other social services in order to ensure balanced and sustainable development. Africa had to establish a technological base to activate its socio-economic structures and to benefit from its natural and human resources endowment. He informed the meeting that Tunisia attached paramount importance to cooperation and solidarity with all African countries and that the country was implementing economic restructuring programmes in order to enhance the performance of its economy.

178. Honourable J.L.T. Mothibamele, M.P., Assistant Minister of Finance and Development of Botswana, moved a vote of thanks on behalf of the Conference, to the President, people and Government of Ethiopia for the excellent reception and hospitality accorded participants since their arrival in Addis Ababa. He said the statement of H.E. Ato Tamrat Layne, Prime Minister of Ethiopia, on the African situation and efforts deployed by Ethiopia to get his country out of its present difficulties would guide the meeting's proceedings. Indeed, the Prime Minister had touched on a number of problems on the agenda and proposed some realistic solutions to the African crisis. Finally, Hon. Mothibamele assured member States of the Commission, development partners, international organizations and observers, that African Ministers responsible for economic and social development and planning and their delegations would spare no effort to guarantee full success to the meeting.

Policy debate: Perspectives of Africa's socio-economic development; and promoting accelerated growth and sustainable development in Africa through the building of critical capacities [agenda item 4]

179. Several delegates and observers, including representatives of United Nations agencies, regional and international intergovernmental organizations and development partners, participated in the policy debate.

180. Several representatives referred to the economic and social situation in Africa in 1994 and expressed concern at the overall trend of economic and social indicators. The favourable GDP growth of 2.4 per cent recorded in 1994, while showing a consolidation of the modest growth that began in 1993, remained insufficient to halt the spread of poverty in Africa. The particularly high rate of population growth in Africa had translated into acute pressure on the environment whose intensive and wanton exploitation called for specific environmental management and protection measures. The rate of population growth was also creating additional social problems in terms of education, health and marginalization which

member States were finding difficult to address because of their poor response capacity and the constraints imposed by ongoing reforms.

181. It was noted that countries of the Southern African subregion had been experiencing drought consistently for the last four years. This had worsened the food security situation and forced many governments in the subregion to divert resources with high opportunity cost to deal with the problems caused by drought., Towards this end, ECA was requested to assist member States and subregional bodies such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in mobilizing resources to deal with drought in a bid to avert famine.

182. Delegates said that the Conference theme, "Promoting accelerated growth and sustainable development through the building and utilization of critical capacities", was timely and pertinent to the challenges that Africa faced in the emerging highly competitive global economy of the twenty-first century. It was observed that, 15 years after the adoption of the Lagos Plan of Action and five years after UN-NADAF, the continent's economic performance remained unsatisfactory. The lacklustre performance of the African economies as a whole, in spite of far-reaching reforms which had been undertaken to create the right macroeconomic conditions, was linked to the shortage of critical capacities. The development of the African countries therefore depended on their putting in place the necessary programmes not only to build but also to make maximum use of capacities in priority areas. Representatives noted, further, that the building of critical capacities was an essential task in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of countries recovering from conflicts.

183. Some delegates noted, however, that there was no lack of development policies and strategies in Africa. The region had adopted many resolutions and formulated numerous plans and programmes of action which, for the most part, had remained on paper. In the course of developing the proposed "framework agenda for building and utilizing critical capacities in Africa", it was necessary, therefore, to make a critical assessment of why African countries had not been able to translate the plans and strategies into practical terms.

184. A number of representatives informed the Conference that comprehensive public sector reforms were under way in their countries aimed at improving efficiency in the delivery of public services. In the view of some delegations, a critical missing ingredient that prevented the translation of development strategies into action was the inadequate capacity to analyze, formulate and effectively execute development policies and programmes.

185. Several delegates noted the importance of networking as a vehicle for sharing experience among African countries in policy analysis, formulation and management, and the effective utilization of information technology in this area. They urged that the proposed framework agenda for African capacity building and utilization should be underpinned by a programme of technical cooperation among African countries whose objective would be to foster the sharing of experiences in different priority areas.

186. Several delegates expressed disappointment with the progress reported in the mid-term review of the implementation of the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (UNTACDA II), particularly the apparent lack of interest by certain institutions which were supposed to play a leading role in the promotion of the programme.

187. It was observed that a number of African countries had put in place incentives and a conducive policy environment to promote private sector growth and to encourage domestic as well as foreign investors. This included, for example, liberalizing currency exchange controls, removing restrictions on repatriation of profits and dividends and providing guarantees against expropriation or nationalization of private assets. Measures had also been taken in some countries to boost fiscal revenue collection by establishing new revenue authorities to administer customs, excise and taxation.

188. Some representatives offered proposals for strengthening the framework agenda in the remaining process for its concretization. It was proposed that the present eight priority areas of capacity building should be restructured to provide a clearer focus within each component of the framework agenda. In this regard, possible additions could be the areas of economic integration, cooperation and negotiating capabilities; management of the environment; renewable energy development and conservation; youth and other special groups; and science and technology. It was also recommended that the framework agenda should be elaborated with built-in flexibility to allow incorporation of emerging themes at country level with a view to giving recognition to the primacy of country-level activity in the eventual operationalization of the framework agenda. Selected country case studies, with workshops being held to facilitate the tapping of insights closer to the ground, would go a long way to make the framework agenda realistic and, ultimately, implementable by individual countries. Measurable success would require definitive actions on specific priorities which would be set by individual countries or through regional cooperation. In this regard, it was necessary to involve the regional economic communities, e.g., AMU, COMESA, ECOWAS, SADC, IGADD, etc., in the mainstream of African capacity building.

189. Delegates were eager to share their experiences with other African countries as well as ECA in the priority areas where they had made much progress. Areas of interest included human capacities, national

institution building, entrepreneurship and micro-enterprise development, decentralization of government functions, reforms of the legal system, strengthening the accountancy profession to promote business management and accountability, and the development of prudent and sound financial intermediary institutions, money and capital markets well adjusted to Africa's social and economic conditions. Representatives urged that where capacity building involved training, it should be demand-driven as opposed to supply-driven. In all aspects of capacity building, priority should be given to employment of local consultants and other expert resources whenever available, as their utilization was itself a part of building and retaining critical capacities in Africa. One delegate invited ECA to field a mission to his country to gather information in respect of the priority area on mobilization of financial resources in the framework agenda.

190. Several representatives noted the coincidence of the Cairo Agenda for Action for relaunching the socio-economic development of Africa adopted in March 1995 at the seventeenth extraordinary session of the OAU Council of Ministers and the twenty-first meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers' theme of promoting accelerated growth and sustainable development in Africa. The Cairo Agenda focused on the political will required by African States to take responsibility for their development in the highly challenging new international environment and to maximize self-reliance in Africa's efforts to build its critical capacities. It was the view of a number of delegations that the three continental organizations, OAU, ECA, and ADB, should work hand in hand and provide the necessary technical assistance to the member States to enable them to implement the Cairo Agenda and the framework agenda for building and utilizing critical capacities in Africa.

191. It was noted that the building of critical capacities in Africa should be viewed as a long-term development programme, because of its comprehensiveness. As such, it would be an expensive undertaking which African countries would not be able to undertake solely on their own financial resources. Africa's development partners, both bilateral and multilateral, would be expected to come to the assistance of African countries, to join in efforts intended to build the capacities needed for sustainable socio-economic development.

192. Delegates noted efforts which African countries had deployed to alleviate the burden of poverty and cushion the vulnerable segments of their populations from negative impacts of economic SAPs. It was noted that several countries had devised and were continuously refining safety net social support programmes for targeted vulnerable groups. With a view to maximizing the impact of scarce fiscal resources, a number of delegations reported that their countries were in the process of re-ordering social development priorities, shifting emphasis towards basic education and primary health care with particular emphasis on preventative measures, including rural potable water supplies and sanitation. Many delegations underlined the need to pay particular attention to the education of girls and women and make special provisions for mother and child health care, in line with the adage that if one educated a woman, one therefore educated a nation. It was observed that persistence with the realistic social policies did pay dividends in terms of alleviating poverty.

193. It was emphasized that policy reforms should give priority consideration to human welfare as the ultimate objective of economic development. This centrality of human security and well-being was a central element in the consensus which emerged from the Copenhagen World Summit for Social Development which concentrated on three major themes: eradication of poverty, promotion of productive employment and livelihoods and promotion of social integration. The Conference further observed that, as the social situation in Africa was more precarious than in any other region, the continent deserved priority attention as set out in commitment seven of the Social Summit Declaration. The Conference therefore urged that the social commitments adopted in the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action should be vigorously implemented in Africa. In this regard, the goal of full, freely chosen, productive employment in adequately remunerated quality jobs, with the basic rights of workers safeguarded, including freedom of association and the prohibition of forced and child labour, was a key element in national strategies towards the eradication of poverty.

194. Delegates underlined the importance of the establishment of a commodity diversification fund and took note of the steps being taken by some African countries to restructure their agricultural sector, such as liberalizing agricultural marketing, providing information and giving priority to the development of private sector activities in agriculture. It was emphasized that food security and increased agricultural production would be enhanced through regional cooperation and integration as well as the active participation of Africa's development partners.

195. Representatives noted that factors responsible for the poor performance of African economies included both domestic and external factors and that Africa needed the cooperation and support of its development partners to address their problems. The high external dependence of African economies in the marketing of commodities and their vulnerability to deteriorating terms of trade was deplored. Other constraints to growth recovery and sustainable development were the inadequacy of resources allocated for development, tightened aid and its adverse effects on the internal accumulation process and the growing burden of external debt. At the domestic level, apart from climatic conditions such as drought which deeply affected the level of agricultural output and cash crop farming, the behaviour of institutional decision makers

in the design and implementation of economic policies was cited among the factors impeding growth recovery in Africa.

196. Delegates noted that the entry into force of the final Act of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations offered both challenges and opportunities to Africa. African countries were encouraged to develop policies and measures that would increase their capacities and enable them to adapt to the new trading environment. In this regard, the proposal by King Hassan of Morocco to establish an intergovernmental "think-tank" on the new international economic negotiation mechanisms in order to ensure (a) a better coordination of the actions of the IMF, IBRD and WTO; and (b) participation of the countries of the South in a concerted strategy for the recovery of the world economy was noted.

197. Representatives took note of the outcome of the International Conference on the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations and African Economies which was organized by ECA in cooperation with other institutions in Tunis in October 1994. The objectives of that conference were to evaluate the impact of the Final Act of the Uruguay Round on African countries; delineate the technical and financial assistance that would be required in order to ameliorate its adverse impact on African economies; and assist such countries to adapt to the new international trading environment.

198. Several delegates observed that despite notable efforts, Africa's worsening external debt situation remained one of the major constraints to Africa's economic recovery. While welcoming the adoption by the Paris Club of the Naples Terms and the fact that some African countries were already benefitting from debt relief provided under the facility, it was nonetheless noted that additional facilities were needed to obtain a durable solution to the African debt problem. In this regard, special emphasis was placed on the need to tackle the problem of multilateral debts in such a way as to ensure that multilateral debt relief was not achieved at the expense of official development finance and concessional flows.

199. Many delegations recapitulated a series of measures which their countries had taken to enhance the status and role of women in the development process. These included the creation of ministries of women affairs; appointment of women to ministerial and other top-level managerial posts in various spheres of decision making; improvement of education system; and enhancement of health and rural services.

200. With regard to the proposal to establish an African bank for women, several delegates expressed support for it. However, some said that the bank must operate within the confines of the laws governing the banking industry in the respective countries. At the same time, other delegates expressed the view that the bank should operate as a development or merchant bank lending to institutions or associations instead of individuals. Several delegates suggested that issues relating to the share price of the bank should be reserved for the board of the bank. Some delegates cautioned against the proposal to allocate 60 per cent of the shares to women. It was suggested that share-holding should be spread among enterprises, institutions and any interested groups. Uganda renewed its offer to host the bank.

201. The Conference noted that several African Governments were implementing either home-grown SAPs or those designed with support of the Bretton Woods institutions. Such programmes had particularly focused on both public and private sector reforms aimed at stimulating rapid economic growth and development. The programmes encompassed public expenditure controls; restructuring and rationalization of both the public service and public enterprises; privatization and creation of an enabling environment for local and foreign investors; rehabilitation and reconstruction of physical infrastructures.

202. Several delegations urged that these adjustment programmes should also take into account their social impact, particularly on the low-income and vulnerable groups. Accordingly, special measures targeting vulnerable social groups should be incorporated in countries implementing SAPs so as to alleviate the adverse social impact of these programmes.

203. Many delegates noted that African countries had pinned all their hope on the adjustment programmes and the competitiveness of the private sector to boost economic growth. The private sector was already enjoying a more conducive environment consequent upon the adoption of the following measures: the flexibility of the employment market; bolstering domestic competition through price liberalization; elimination of barriers to new competitors; trade liberalization and export promotion; and improvement of legal and regulatory framework and incentive packages for investment. In this regard, several African countries have subscribed to efforts undertaken to strengthen the communication networks among the operational structures of the economic operators such as chambers of commerce, trade centres, etc.

204. Particular emphasis was placed on ensuring that the implementation of economic reforms geared towards the revival of the economy should be accompanied by enhanced institutional capacities of African States. Enhanced managerial capacities were also important for competent management of the national economy. Strengthening development administration was viewed as essential to improved statistical information which made for a better grasp of important data and improved economic projections; general, sectoral and regional planning which was concretized by the integration of the relevant dimensions of socio-economic activities and their development in time and in space; programming and follow-up of public

investments as well as the mobilization of external resources.

205. Recognizing the pertinence of peace and political stability to the achievement of growth and prosperity, the Conference noted with satisfaction the progress regarding democratization and people's empowerment in several countries. Many delegates urged member States to accelerate the implementation of strategies aimed at promoting social integration, national cohesion, political peace and stability and stressed the need for good governance and respect for human rights. The Conference stressed the need for Africa to manifest its seriousness not only in the economic sphere, but also in its determined effort to settle conflicts and internal strife, so as to usher in a region of peace, stability and security without which no meaningful development could take place. In this regard, the Conference noted with satisfaction the effective functioning of the OAU mechanism for conflict prevention, management and resolution.

206. In light of the emergence of competitive continental trading blocs in the world, the Conference called for the strengthening of regional economic cooperation and integration among African countries. It particularly called for the speedy implementation of the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community. To this end, it was imperative to strengthen the existing subregional economic groupings as they formed part of the pillars upon which the African Economic Community would rest. The Conference urged member States to promote consultation within their subregional economic groupings. Several delegates regretted the fact that implementation of the Lome Convention had been impeded by the complexity and slow pace of the funding procedure. Hope was expressed that ACP institutions monitoring implementation of the Convention would enhance the efficient operation of funding management during the period covered by the second financial protocol, so as to help African members of ACP to iron out the difficulties encountered with the European Union throughout the implementation of the Convention.

207. Delegates noted with encouragement that South-South cooperation could substantially supplement Africa's efforts towards economic recovery, cooperation and integration. Delegates particularly noted with satisfaction the initiative of several African and Asian countries for the formation of an economic forum comprising the countries of the Indian Ocean rim. If implemented, this cooperation scheme could cover many African and Asian countries, from Southern Africa up to the Persian Gulf. In this regard, delegates hoped that enhanced cooperation between the United Nations Regional Commissions for both continents could play an important catalytic role. It was, therefore, proposed that the United Nations Regional Economic Commissions in Africa and Asia should organize a conference aimed at discussing and reviewing the state of economic cooperation between African and Asian countries.

208. Representatives of specialized agencies of the United Nations and African intergovernmental organizations also identified themselves with the theme of the Conference. They pledged to enhance their cooperation with African member States and offered to collaborate with the Commission in the specific capacity-building fields of their mandate and competence.

209. Several delegates commended the 1996-1997 work programme of the Commission and took note of the new organizational structure of the ECA secretariat. They commended the Acting Executive Secretary and the entire secretariat for the quality of their work and for the preparations for the Conference.

Consideration of the report and recommendations of the sixteenth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole (agenda item 5)

210. The Chairman of the sixteenth meeting of TEPCOW presented the report of the Committee as well as the draft resolutions, memorandum and declaration recommended by the Committee for adoption by the Conference as contained in document E/ECA/CM.21/16.

211. The Conference took note of the presentation and examined the report of the Committee as well as the resolutions and other decisions contained therein. In considering the report, the delegates made the following observations:

(a) On agenda item 5(a)(vii), the Conference was informed that the Joint Inspection Unit was conducting an assessment on the implementation of UN-NADAF, and that preliminary results showed that the implementation was not satisfactory due to various factors. However, the Conference was informed that an official report would be made available upon completion of the assessment;

(b) Under agenda item 5(a)(viii), paragraph 90(f), it was decided that a phrase "and other agencies" be included in addition to the United Nations General Assembly, in providing financial resources for the implementation of UNTACDA II;

(c) Under agenda item 6, paragraph 130, it was pointed out that the recommendation regarding the rotation of the chairmanship of UNAFRI applied only to that Institute. The decision on the arrangement regarding the office of chairman of the other sponsored institutions was to be left to their governing boards;

(d) Under agenda item 7(a), paragraph 140, it was suggested that the theme for the next meeting of the Conference should be food security in Africa. It was pointed out that the current theme under which the Conference was meeting was for the biennium. However, since the theme of the Conference is usually established through consultations between the Executive Secretary and the chairman of the Conference, the Conference noted that the various proposals would be taken into account in these consultations;

(e) Under agenda item 8, paragraph 150, the Conference felt that the paragraph as presently formulated was confusing, since it gave the impression that the proposals referred to therein were recommendations or decisions of the Committee. These were in fact proposals contained in the report that the secretariat had prepared and presented to the Committee under the item on the strengthening of the operational capacity of ECA's programme of technical cooperation. Concern was particularly expressed at the proposal under paragraph 150 (d) of the report of TEPCOW, which stated that member States should commit themselves to appropriating about 1 per cent of their national budget for payment into the Fund. The Conference, therefore, decided that the first sentence of paragraph 150 should be changed to read "*Given these problems and the economic and financial situation of African member States, the secretariat made the following proposals for revitalizing UNTFAD for the Committee's consideration*". It also decided that paragraph 150 (d) should read "*That African member States could commit themselves to appropriating on a voluntary basis some percentage of their national budgets for payment to the Fund*". The Conference agreed that UNTFAD pledging conferences should be held along with the annual Pledging Conference for Operational Activities for Development at New York.

212. The Conference adopted the report of the Committee with the foregoing amendments. It also amended as appropriate and adopted the draft resolutions and a special memorandum contained in the report.

213. The Conference also adopted the following resolutions and declaration which were not considered by TEPCOW: resolutions on food security, and technical cooperation among African countries, and a declaration on the African external debt.

214. The Conference also moved a motion of appreciation to Mr. Layashi Yaker, former Executive Secretary of ECA, whose term of office ended on 28 February 1995.

Pledging Conference for the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD) (agenda item 6)

215. The Chairman of the thirtieth session of the Commission and the twenty-first meeting of the Conference of Ministers stressed the importance of the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD). The Fund, he said was established by the United Nations Secretary-General in response to the request by the Commission with a view to encouraging African member States and their development partners to make voluntary contributions towards the implementation of the operational activities of ECA which were not financed under the regular budget.

216. The Chairman noted with satisfaction the implementation of some projects during the previous biennium within the main sectors of the Commission's activities. He expressed gratitude to those countries which had pledged and paid up their contributions fully. He then called on those countries in arrears to honour their obligations so that planned and approved programmes could be implemented. He also called upon the countries which had never made pledges to do so in order to support development efforts at the regional level.

217. The Chairman requested the Conference of Ministers to approve the proposal to merge the biennial pledging Conference for UNTFAD with that of the United Nations held each year in New York. He further stressed that the resources required for the 1996-1997 biennium were in accordance with the theme of the Conference. He expressed the wish that the Ministers and plenipotentiaries would increase their contributions to the Fund. The Chairman then declared the tenth Pledging Conference for UNTFAD open.

218. Addressing the Conference on the same theme, the Acting Executive Secretary subscribed to the comments made by the Chairman and stated that since the inception of UNTFAD, total pledges had amounted to $12.5 million. Of this total, $10.5 million had been fully paid. These resources were used mainly to organize seminars, workshops and study tours as well as for support to the operations of specialized centres and institutions established and sponsored by the Commission.

219. The Acting Executive Secretary indicated that the activities proposed for financing under UNTFAD during the 1996-1997 biennium were part and parcel of the Commission's work programme over the same period and covered the priorities established for the Fund. He added that these activities were classified under five programmes: (a) upgrading of human resources; (b) management of natural resources, energy and environment; (c) the strengthening of the role of women in development; (d) sustainable development in Africa; and (e) regional cooperation and economic integration. In conclusion, the Acting Executive Secretary expressed the hope that there would be many and significant contributions to UNTFAD during the tenth conference.

220. The representative of Senegal underscored the financial difficulties besetting member States and the need for resources necessary for the execution of activities on the ECA biennium programme. He pledged

$10,000 to UNTFAD and assured the Conference that his country would pay its existing arrears to the Fund.

221. The representative of Zambia recalled the important role that ECA was playing in the promotion of subregional and regional cooperation. He pledged 4 million Kwacha to be used for ESADIS and 5.5 million Kwacha for the Lusaka-based MULPOC.

222. The representative of the Federal Republic of Nigeria reiterated his country's unconditional commitment to UNTFAD and stated that his country had contributed to this Fund at every pledging conference, in support of ECA activities. He said that his country had paid $23,500 more than it had pledged at previous pledging conferences. He then announced a pledge of $123,500 which took account of the said surplus. The $123,500 would be used as follows: $13,500 for the Regional Centre for Training in Aerospace Surveys (RECTAS), $25,000 for the Niamey-based MULPOC, $35,000 for ARCEDEM and $50,000 for priority activities included in the UNTFAD pro-gramme.

223. The representative of Botswana stated that his country had always honoured its commitments and underscored the important responsibility of African countries to finance their development. Despite the financial difficulties faced by his country, he announced that Botswana was making a pledge of $12,000 to UNTFAD.

224. The representative of Namibia pointed out that his country attached great importance to UNTFAD to which it had always contributed. He pledged $2,000.

225. The representative of Uganda pointed out the difficulties that his country was going through. He stated that the pledge of $40,000 made during the previous conferences had been paid. Despite current difficulties facing the country, he was happy to make a pledge of $20,000.

226. The delegate of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya stated that his country had already subscribed an amount of $600,000 pledged during the previous conferences, out of which $500,000 had been paid. His country would take the necessary measures to have the balance paid. He announced that the Jamahiriya would continue to host African conferences and support international organizations, such as ACARTSOD.

227. The representative of Malawi recalled that 1992 and 1994 were drought-stricken years in her country. Furthermore, aid to her country had been suspended due to the human rights records of the previous regime. She noted that her country had paid up all its contributions and she pledged $3,000 to the UNTFAD budget for the 1996-1997 biennium.

228. The representative of Gabon underlined the importance his country attached to UNTFAD and pledged an amount of $15,000.

229. The representative of the Sudan acknow-ledged that his country owed an amount of $15,000 in previous pledges. He promised to pay up the arrears and pledged $20,000.

230. The representative of France informed the Conference that his country had been making contributions to UNTFAD for the past three biennia. His country would pledge again to the Fund. The exact amount would be communicated to the secretariat at a future date.

231. The representative of Japan pledged a contribution of $300,000. In doing so, he stressed the importance for the contribution to be used effectively.

232. The representative of Greece pledged a contribution of $20,000 which, he said, would be given to ECA soon.

233. In his closing remarks, the Chairman informed the Conference that a total of $505,000 and 9.5 million Zambian Kwachas had been pledged. He expressed his gratitude on behalf of the Conference to all those who had pledged.

234. The representative of Ethiopia, after consultation with his Government, made a pledge of $10,000 to UNTFAD, bringing the total amount pledged from $505,000 to $515,000.

Any other business (agenda item 7)

235. No issue was raised under this item.

Date and venue of the thirty-first session of the Commission/twenty-second meeting of the Conference of Ministers (agenda item 8)

236. The Conference decided that the next session of the Commission and meeting of the Conference will be held in Addis Ababa. The Conference agreed that, in scheduling the next session, efforts should be made to ensure that the dates do not fall within Ramadan.

Adoption of the report (agenda item 9)

237. The Conference adopted the present report, together with the Declaration on Africa's External Debt. The Conference requested ECA to transmit the Declaration to the OAU secretariat which should bring it to the attention of the OAU Contact Group on Debt at its next meeting.

Closure of the meeting (agenda item 10)

238. As the meeting drew to a close, the representatives of Ghana and Tunisia requested to communicate some information to the Conference.

239. The representative of Ghana said that the adoption by the Conference of Ministers of the resolution on promotion of private investment was a source of deep gratification to her delegation. She informed the meeting that the Conference on "Reviving Private Investment in Africa: Challenges and Opportunities" will take place in Accra from 7 to 10 November 1995. She announced that the Government of Ghana will make a firm contribution of US$125,000, representing more than half of the budget of that conference. She said that a crucial component of that conference will be the launching of the "African capital market forum" and promotion of the development of African stock markets. She invited all African countries and Africa's development partners to attend and participate actively in the conference.

240. The representative of Tunisia said that, in the context of his Government's commitment to promoting development and cooperation in Africa, Tunisia had organized a Conference on Food Security and Development in Africa in Tunis from 15 to 18 April 1995. He also informed the Conference that his Government will be hosting the Pan-African Conference of Ministers of Energy from 16 to 18 May 1995. He invited all African countries to participate in the conference.

241. The Acting Executive Secretary read the final communique on the Conference which is attached to this report.

242. In his closing statement, the Chairman thanked the participants for their effective contribution to this session of the Commission as well as for the quality of their interventions. He also thanked them on behalf of the Transitional Government of Ethiopia and the Ethiopian people for their expression of gratitude for the attention given and hospitality extended to them. He praised the secretariat staff for their diligence and devotion to servicing the Conference and paid tribute to the Acting Executive Secretary, Mr. Makha D. Sarr, for his insight, quiet energy and effective leadership in bringng the session to a successful conclusion. He also thanked the members of the bureau for their cooperation and support.

243. The Chairman then declared the meeting closed.

CHAPTER IV

LIST OF RESOLUTIONS, SPECIAL MEMORANDUM AND DECLARATION ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS AT ITS TWENTY-FIRST MEETING

Number Title Page

A. *Resolutions*

794 (XXX). Implementation of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community: Harmonization, rationalization and strengthening of regional economic communities 49

795 (XXX). Building Africa's information highway 50

796 (XXX). Technical cooperation among African countries 50

797 (XXX). Accelerated implementation of the Programme of Action in the African least developed countries during the second half of the 1990s 51

798 (XXX). Promotion of private investment in Africa 52

799 (XXX). Promoting human development in Africa 52

800 (XXX). Strategy and Action Plan for Water Resources Assessment, Development and Management in Africa 53

801 (XXX). Food security and self-sufficiency in Africa 54

802 (XXX). African Platform for Action: African common position for the advancement of women 55

803 (XXX). Resource mobilization for the implementation of the African Platform for Action 56

804 (XXX). Implementation of phase II of the programme for the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (UNTACDA II) 57
    Annex: Programme budget implications of resolution 804 (XXX) 58

805 (XXX). Food security and self-sufficiency in North Africa 60

806 (XXX). United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders 61

807 (XXX). Programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1996-1997 . . . 62

808 (XXX). Strengthening of the capacity of the Economic Commission for Africa: United Nations Trust Fund for African Development . . 63

Number Title Page

B. *Memorandum*

Special Memorandum on the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s 63

C. *Declaration*

Declaration on Africa's external debt 68

D. *Motion*

Motion of appreciation to Mr. Layashi Yaker 69

CHAPTER IV

RESOLUTIONS, SPECIAL MEMORANDUM AND DECLARATION ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS AT ITS TWENTY-FIRST MEETING

A. *Resolutions*

794 (XXX). *Implementation of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community: harmonization, rationalization and strengthening of regional economic communities*

The Conference of Ministers,

Considering the entry into force since May 1994 of the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community,

Recalling the need to speed up the integration process in response to the challenges facing the continent in its economic and social development, the establishment and consolidation of subregional groupings and the opportunities offered by the conclusion of the Uruguay Round negotiations,

Further recalling that the first stage in the implementation of the Abuja Treaty is the strengthening of the subregional communities which form the building blocks of the African Economic Community, that these regional communities are experiencing major difficulties, namely the rationalization of the intergovernmental organizations operating in each subregional space and the financing of the integration process as well as the difficulties encountered in the rationalization of the institutional frameworks for subregional cooperation,

Considering the urgent need to minimize the existing differences between the various schemes initiated by the integration institutions within each subregion, particularly in the trade liberalization systems, in which unification is an important factor in the establishment of the customs unions and subregional economic communities envisaged in the Abuja Treaty,

Further considering the objective limits of member States' contributions for financing the integration process and the need to make the process irreversible by initiating or speeding up the activities of the subregional communities,

1. Urges member States, regional and subregional communities to:

(a) Initiate a programme of rationalization and harmonization of trade liberalization policies in each subregional space through the progressive unification of trade liberalization rules, including:

(i) tariff dismantling schemes;
(ii) rules of origin;
(iii) certificates of origin;
(iv) clearing mechanisms;
(v) customs tariff and statistical nomenclatures;

(b) Support the regional integration process by adopting appropriate measures for the establishment of common external tariffs, a domestic taxation system and a pricing policy likely to guarantee economic efficiency and competitiveness of the products traded within the region;

(c) Institute within the regional and subregional economic communities indigenous resource mobilization mechanisms that would provide adequate and regular financing for the economic integration process;

2. Calls upon the United Nations Development Programme and other donor agencies to provide assistance for the financing of studies and activities that need to be conducted in the implementation of this programme;

3. Calls upon the Joint Organization of African Unity/Economic Commission for Africa/African Development Bank Secretariat to conclude the drafting of the protocols of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community in good time for submission to the competent Community authorities for consideration;

4. Also calls upon the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Secretary General of the Organization of African Unity and the President of the African Development Bank to provide every support, including the commissioning of required studies, to the subregional economic communities in the planning, formulation and implementation of their rationalization programme and the establishment of indigenous resource mobilization mechanisms for the financing of integration.

296th meeting,
3 May 1995.

795 (XXX). *Building Africa's information highway*

The Conference of Ministers,

Cognizant of the need to promote cooperation in the exchange of information in support of the African Economic Community as well as development efforts at the national, subregional and regional levels,

Mindful of the need for African scientists and researchers to continue to participate in the scientific and technological activities at the global level,

Bearing in mind the need for emphasizing the importance of expanding Africa's information highway by building and utilizing critical capacities in Africa to this end,

Bearing in mind also the need to establish information networks and data bases as specified in the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community as well as the emphasis placed on information technology in the Lomé IV Convention,

Recognizing the need for African countries to develop information networks for full Internet connectivity to enable them to have the same access to information that the rest of the world now enjoys,

Recalling resolution 49/134 of the United Nations General Assembly on Strengthening information systems for Africa's recovery and sustainable development,

Recalling also its resolutions 716 (XXVI) of 12 May 1991, 726 (XXVII) of 22 April 1992, 732 (XXVII) of 22 April 1992, 729 (XXIX) of 4 May 1994, as well as resolution 1993/67 of the Economic and Social Council of 30 July 1993,

Appreciative of the joint effort of the Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Telecommunication Union and the International Development Research Centre in organizing the first African Regional Symposium on Telematics for Development in Addis Ababa in April 1995,

Noting with satisfaction the performance of the Economic Commission for Africa's subprogramme activities on information systems development in the delivery of technical assistance to member States,

Further noting with satisfaction the assistance of the International Development Research Centre and other donors in promoting the Information Age in Africa,

Bearing in mind the need to strengthen the Commission's information support for subregional economic cooperation and integration,

1. Urges member States which have not yet done so to take the necessary steps to build national information networks for decision making and planning as part of the infrastructure for Africa's information highway;

2. Calls upon member States to promote the exchange of experiences with a view to assisting each other in speedily establishing their national information networks;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to:

(a) Set up a high-level working group on information technologies and communications in Africa made up of African technical experts with a view to preparing a plan of action in this field;

(b) Mobilize the financial resources necessary for the operations of the aforementioned working group;

(c) Present a report on the implementation of this resolution to the next Conference of Ministers.

296th meeting,
3 May 1995.

796 (XXX). *Technical cooperation among African countries*

The Conference of Ministers,

Having deliberated at length on issues relating to the need for capacity building and utilization in Africa,

Convinced that this new paradigm holds great promise for Africa in its attempt to achieve meaningful economic transformation, accelerated growth and sustainable development,

Encouraged by gains made by the African and other regions by the implementation of technical cooperation among developing countries,

Realizing the need to bring the Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries principle closer home to Africa to take advantage of existing capacity within the region supplemented by international capacity where necessary and to give impetus to the process of development and utilization of capacity in Africa,

1. Decides to include the issue of technical cooperation among African countries in the agenda of the next Conference of Ministers;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, in cooperation with the Secretary General of the Organization of African Unity and the President of the African Development Bank, as well as the chief executives of the regional economic communities, to conduct a study on technical cooperation among African countries and report to the next Conference of Ministers.

296th meeting,
3 May 1995.

797 (XXX). *Accelerated implementation of the Programme of Action in the African least developed countries during the second half of the 1990s*

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the Paris Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s adopted by the second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and the basic principles outlined therein as the basis for action to promote fundamental growth-oriented transformation of the economies of the least developed coutries,

Noting that the prime objective of the Programme of Action is to arrest the further deterioration in the socio-economic situation of the least developed countries and to reactivate and accelerate their growth and development and, in the process, to set them on the path of sustained growth and development,

Deeply concerned at the continuing deterioration in the socio-economic situation of the African least developed countries,

Recalling in this regard the commitment of the international community to implement the Programme of Action and underscoring the fact that its successful implementation would depend on shared responsibility and strengthened partnership for the growth and development of the least developed countries,

Recalling further the decision of United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 49/98 of 19 December 1994 to convene the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s in New York from 26 September to 6 October 1995,

Noting with appreciation the preparatory activities undertaken by the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to ensure the success of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting,

Expressing deep concern that the number of least developed countries in Africa has increased from 21 in 1981 to 33 in 1994,

Reaffirming that the least developed countries have the primary responsibility for the formulation and effective implementation of national policies and priorities for their growth and development,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Secretary evaluating progress achieved so far by the African least developed countries in the implementation of the Paris Declaration and Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s;

2. Welcomes the convening of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action and emphasizes that such an occasion is of particular significance as it will provide an opportunity to set out new and corrective policies and measures to ensure the effective and full implementation of the Programme of Action during the second half of the 1990s;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to intensify its efforts in regional coordination, with respect to international and regionally focused programmes and special measures in favour of the least developed, land-locked countries, in particular, to follow-up and monitor the implementation of the Paris Declaration and Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s in those countries;

4. Requests further the Executive Secretary to transmit the Commission's regional document evaluating the progress achieved by the African least developed countries in the implementation of the Programme of Action and the Special Memorandum on the Mid-term Global Review to the Permanent Representatives of African Missions to the United Nations at Geneva and New York through the Chairpersons of the African Groups and the Chairman of the Group of 77, as Africa's contribution to global review process and to report on

the implementation of this resolution to the next Conference of Ministers.

296th meeting,
3 May 1995.

798 (XXX). *Promotion of private investment in Africa*

The Conference of Ministers,

Mindful of the large untapped investment opportunities in Africa and that investments on the continent could yield higher returns than in other regions of the world,

Conscious of the importance of private investment to the growth and development of African countries,

Considering the insufficiency of foreign private capital flows to and local investments in the African countries,

Recalling the need for African countries to create an environment conducive to private sector development and both domestic and foreign investment,

Noting with satisfaction the commitment of African countries to carrying out the necessary reforms, adopting appropriate policies and creating the institutional framework and machinery that would attract private investment,

Welcoming the ongoing efforts to build and strengthen partnerships in this area, particularly the initiatives taken by the Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the World Bank Group and other like-minded multilateral development institutions,

1. Calls upon African countries to intensify their efforts to create and maintain an enabling environment for private sector development and the growth of private capital inflows, especially in productive activities through the institution of the necessary macroeconomic framework which would emphasize improving infrastructural and human development resources capacities;

2. Invites Africa's development partners to extend every necessary support for improving investment conditions for both domestic and foreign investors through increasing the flow of official development assistance resources, implementing comprehensive debt-relief programmes, supporting the efforts of African countries to improve and enhance their financial intermediation capabilities, upgrading infrastructure and participatng actively in the promotional activities of African countries;

3. Invites all African countries and development partners to attend and participate actively in the regional forum on private investment in Africa to be held in Accra, Ghana in November 1995;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the Secretary General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the President of the African Development Bank and the World Bank Group to provide African countries with the technical and financial assistance they need to promote private sector and private investment.

296th meeting,
3 May 1995.

799 (XXX). *Promoting human development in Africa*

The Conference of Ministers,

Aware of the primacy of the human being in the development process and of the need to focus the development endeavours of African countries on human development,

Emphasizing the importance of the mobilization and development of human resources in Africa as a crucial factor in promoting sustained and increasingly self-reliant socio-economic development,

Cognizant of the increasing recognition of the imperative to set, and strive to achieve, human development goals in the development process,

Aware of the commitments made to the cause of social and human development by the Jomtien World Conference on Education and Development, the Cairo World Conference on Population and Development, the New York World Summit for Children and the Copenhagen World Summit for Social Development and the need for their vigorous implementation in Africa,

Recalling the Commission's stance on human development as expressed in such landmark regional frameworks as the Lagos Plan of Action, the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development

(UN PAAERD), the Khartoum Declaration, the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-Economic Recovery and Transformation (AAF-SAP), the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation, the Dakar/Ngor Declaration on Population, Family and Sustainable Development, the African Common Position on Human and Social Development in Africa and the African Platform for Action: African Common Position for the Advancement of Women,

Deeply concerned over the persistently deplorable human development situation prevailing on the continent,

Noting with appreciation the collaboration of the agencies of the United Nations, particularly the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Health Organization in the preparation of the maiden report,

1. Commends the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa for its initiative in launching the series of reports on human development in Africa;

2. Urges member States to support fully this initiative and to use these reports, at this initial stage, as instruments for monitoring human development indicators and to participate in future within the framework of the Commission in perfecting these instruments both from the theoretical and practical points of view, taking into account the specific features of Africa;

3. Calls upon the United Nations agencies and the international community at large to cooperate technically, materially and financially, with the Commission in the preparation of this report;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission and Africa's development partners to make use of this report as a framework to:

(a) Promote the cause of human development in Africa; and

(b) Monitor progress in the attainment of regional targets set and the fulfilment of regional commitments made in respect of human development in fora such as the World Conference on Education for All, the World Summit for Children, the World Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development as well as within the framework of the African Common Position on Human and Social Development in Africa;

5. Further requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to submit a report every two years to the Conference of African Ministers responsible for Human Development and its Ministerial Follow-up Committee of Fifteen.

296th meeting,
3 May 1995.

800 (XXX). *Strategy and Action Plan for Water Resources Assessment, Development and Management in Africa*

The Conference of Ministers,

Aware that water resources assessment, development and management contribute significantly to the socio-economic development of Africa in general and to agricultural development in particular,

Further aware that although the African region is relatively well-endowed with water resources potential, the bulk of which is yet to be harnessed for sustainable development, there exists water stress and water scarcity in many African countries, thereby leading to user conflicts,

Recognizing the frequent recurrence of drought in Africa and the negative effects it has on food production and availability of water,

Recalling the relevant recommendations of the 1977 Mar del Plata Action Plan and the subsequent African Regional Strategy adopted by the 1980 Lagos Plan of Action and the relevant provisions of chapter 18 of Agenda 21 adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992,

Cognizant of the conclusions and recommendations of the World Bank/United Nations Development Programme Sub-Saharan Africa Hydrological Assessment Project which identified the recent deterioration and need for upgrading and strengthening of hydrological and hydrometeorlogical services in Africa,

Taking note of the report on food and agriculture production, food security and food self-sufficiency in Africa,

Taking note also of the conclusions of the Economic Commission for Africa/World Meteorological Organization International Conference on Water Resources: Policy and Assessment, in March 1995, which adopted a Strategy and Plan of Action for Water Resources Assessment in Africa to be implemented by the member States in partnership with subregional and regional and international organizations and other support agencies,

Highly appreciative of and expressing satisfaction at the existing exemplary cooperation and collaboration between the World Meteorological Organization and the Economic Commission for Africa,

1. Urges all African countries to:

(a) Adopt the strategy and plan of action presented in the Report of the Economic Commission for Africa/World Meteorological Organization Water Conference and use it in implementing their programmes of water resources assessment, development and management;

(b) Initiate actions to develop and/or strengthen management and technical capabilities (including relevant institution and infrastructure building), promote awareness, establish sustainable financial base and adopt an integrated approach for sustainable water resources development and management;

2. Calls upon the concerned subregional and regional intergovernmental development organizations such as the Organization of African Unity, the African Development Bank, the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development, the Regional Centre for Training in Aerospace Surveys, the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, the African Organization for Cartography and Remote Sensing and the various river/lake basin organizations to:

(a) Promote and strengthen inter-country cooperation for integrated development of transboundary river/lake ground-water basins;

(b) Promote and implement initiatives to provide incentives to national and regional programmes in water resources monitoring, assessment and development, especially as it relates to agricultural development;

3. Further calls upon Africa's development partners to:

(a) Incorporate the strategy and plan of action in their programmes of assistance for water resources assessment and integrated water resources management in the African countries;

(b) Promote this strategy and plan of action for water resources assessment in Africa in the context of a comprehensive approach to sustainable development and provide financial support for its implementation;

4. Requests the Economic Commission for Africa to continue to cooperate with the World Meteorological Organization in its support to African countries and take a leadership role, in collaboration with other United Nations organizations as well as national, subregional and regional organizations involved in the water sector in Africa to:

(a) Actively promote this strategy and plan of action for water resources assessment in Africa in the context of comprehensive approach to sustainable development;

(b) Mobilize the necessary support for its implementation.

296th meeting,
3 May 1995.

801 (XXX). *Food security and self-sufficiency in Africa*

The Conference of Ministers,

Having examined the report on the situation of food and agriculture production, especially in the context of food security and self-sufficiency in Africa,

Aware of the fact that hunger, malnutrition and the lack of other basic needs cannot be eliminated on a lasting basis through humanitarian assistance,

Further aware of the importance of food security and self-sufficiency to the realization of sustained socio-economic growth and development in Africa, most of it highly dependent on agriculture, coupled with the fact that the largest share of Africa's poor reside in the rural areas,

Deeply concerned at the continuing deterioration of the food and agriculture situation in Africa over the past twenty years, the food insecurity and malnutrition mostly found in the rural areas, and which have been compounded by unfavourable climatic conditions and civil unrest in some parts of the region,

Recalling various other previous resolutions and documentation on this subject matter, including the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, adopted by the General Assembly in 1991, which accords a high priority to the food and agriculture sector, Convinced of the need to ensure that food requirements of the region are met through the implementation of concrete policies and measures aimed at improving food and agriculture production, in close linkage with the other sectors of the economy,

1. Calls upon member States to create a conducive macroeconomic environment, including the design of effective and appropriate policy interventions that go beyond the agricultural sector for the enhancement of all required capacities for food and agriculture production, especially in the areas of human, institutional and infrastructural capacities in order to bring about needed diversification;

3. Urges the subregional economic communities to build a framework for cooperation that aims at developing subregional and regional trade;

3. Appeals to the international community to adopt the measures to cushion the adverse impact of the liberalization of agricultural prices under the Final Act of the Uruguay Round on Africa's food and agriculture sector through, *inter alia*, operationalizing the Marrakech decision on least developed countries and net food-importing countries;

4. Requests the Economic Commission for Africa and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to strengthen programmes designed to promote food security and self-sufficiency within each subregion and in the region as a whole;

5. Calls upon the Executive Secretary of the Commission, in cooperation with the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization and other relevant United Nations organizations, to evolve a comprehensive strategy that seeks viable economic development and encourages sustainable agriculture and rural development, including, *inter alia*, land-use policies, access to modern inputs, management of natural resources and the environment, issues relating to the rehabilitation of societies, enhanced private sector participation and measures to promote agricultural trade;

6. Further requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to report on the implementation of this resolution to the next Conference of Ministers.

296th meeting,
3 May 1995.

802 (XXX). *African Platform for Action: African common position for the advancement of women*

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 792 (XXIX) on "An integrated approach to women's empowerment: The Kampala Action Plan on Women and Peace; violation of women's human rights; and women's economic empowerment", adopted at its twentieth meeting,

Recalling the Tunis Declaration at the thirtieth Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity held in June 1994 on Population and Development, which gave its support to the African Regional Conference on Women,

Further recalling the fifth African Regional Conference on Women which was held in Dakar, Senegal from 16 to 23 November 1994, and which adopted the African Platform for Action: African Common Position for the Advancement of Women,

Noting with satisfaction the Declaration in the African Platform for Action which, *inter alia*, reaffirmed the commitment of African Governments to the realization of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the promotion and advancement of women through accelerated action for equality, development and peace,

Taking into account that operative paragraph 4 of the Declaration upholds the African Platform for Action as the outcome of a regional country-based review of the progress of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies, and broad consultations at national, subregional and regional levels, with inputs from grass-roots communities, and all sections of the African population,

1. Adopts the African Platform for Action as a renewed commitment by African Governments and as a blue-print to further accelerate the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies;

2. Calls upon the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, at its next meeting, to adopt the African Platform for Action by according it the necessary political support;

3. Urges member States to give full support to the implementation of the provisions of the African Platform for Action;

4. Requests the subregional economic communities to contribute to sensitizing the member countries in their subregion and to coordinate their efforts as well as that of their development partners for the implementation of the Platform.

296th meeting,
3 May 1995.

803 (XXX). *Resource mobilization for the implementation of the African Platform for Action*

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, approved by the United Nations General Assembly in resolution 40/108 of 13 December 1985,

Further recalling resolutions 35/4 of 8 March 1991 and 36/8 of 20 March 1992 adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women regarding the preparations for the fourth World Conference on Women,

Taking into account the outcome of the fifth African Regional Conference on Women held in Dakar, Senegal, from 16 to 23 November 1994, in which the Conference adopted the African Platform for Action: African Common Position for the Advancement of Women,

Further taking into account the resolution of the fifth African Regional Conference on Women on the "Implementation of the African Platform for Action" which stresses the need for all actors and partners in development, in particular, governments, intergovernmental bodies, development financing institutions, multilateral organizations, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and women's and youth organizations, to work together for the implementation of the African Platform for Action,

Noting with concern the low degree to which such global and regional frameworks as the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies and the Abuja Declaration have been implemented,

Considering the importance of continuous monitoring of the implementation rate of the African Platform for Action by all development partners in the interest of accelerating the advancement of women and the achievement of sustainable development and transformation,

Aware that over the last several years, the continent has been experiencing a critical financial situation which has hindered the implementation of various development strategies and programmes especially those regarding the advancement of women,

Further aware of the serious financial difficulties facing African States, which may prevent African women from participating effectively in the fourth World Conference on Women,

1. Notes with satisfaction the efforts made by the African Centre for Women both in the drafting of the Platform for Action and in preparations for Africa's participation in the fourth World Conference on Women;

2. Urges member States to make adequate financial appropriations in their national budgets, giving priority to women in development programmes within the framework of debt conversion, for implementing the African Platform for Action;

3. Calls upon member States to strengthen their national institutions for the advancement of women and support the efforts of the private sector and non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the African Platform for Action;

4. Calls upon member States and the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa to enhance the operational capacity of the African Centre for Women to enable it to attain the goals of the African Platform for Action;

5. Urgently appeals to the regional financial institutions, business associations and other regional institutions to contribute technically and financially to the implementation of the African Platform for Action;

6. Further requests all of Africa's development partners to assist African countries financially and technically, for their effective participation in the fourth World Conference on Women;

7. Calls upon the international community and financial institutions to contribute financially to the implementation of the African Platform for Action in accordance with paragraph 126 (c) contained in the Platform.

8. Requests the Joint Organization of African Unity/Economic Commission for Africa/African Development Bank Secretariat to mobilize financial resources for the implementation of the African Platform for Action.

296th meeting,
3 May 1995.

804 (XXX). *Implementation of phase II of the programme for the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (UNTACDA II)*

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.91/84 of February 1991 by which it adopted the programme for the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, 1991-2000 (UNTACDA II),

Referring to United Nations General Assembly resolution 46/456 of 20 December 1991 launching the implementation of the Decade programme and decision 48/455 of 21 December 1993 on additional resources for the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa,

Recalling also Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.93/89 of 13 March 1993 on implementation of the programme of UNTACDA II work programme,

Having considered the mid-term evaluation of the Decade and the action programme derived therefrom,

Reaffirming the continued relevance and critical importance of UNTACDA II, especially towards achieving the goals of the Abuja Treaty (1991) establishing the African Economic Community,

Noting with concern in particular the low level of programme implementation due to the lack of resources,

Recalling that new projects to be proposed for inclusion in the Decade programme should conform to the principles and the criteria already adopted and be submitted to the executing agencies, specifying, among other things:

(a) The time-frame for implementation,

(b) Resource requirements, availability and prospective sources, and

(c) The description and assignment of tasks among the various partners,

1. Urges member States to make every effort to implement the Decade programme by undertaking, inter alia, the following specific activities:

(a) Facilitating and encouraging national coordinating committee activities by providing them with the necessary human and financial resources to enable them to accomplish their assigned tasks;

(b) According priority to national projects which contribute to the achievement of Decade objectives;

(c) Coordinating and strengthening national efforts in fund-raising so as to be able to access regional IPFs from such sources as the Lomé Convention for the implementation of the Decade programme;

(d) Taking into account the environmental impact of all transport and communications development projects;

2. Invites member States and intergovernmental organizations to involve the subregional and subsectoral working groups in the design of regional action programmes concerning transport and communications and provide them with every assistance necessary for participating effectively in the implementation of the UNTACDA II programme;

3. Requests intergovernmental organizations to take active part in the UNTACDA II programme by carrying out in their regular work programme activities listed in the UNTACDA II programme with priority given to those that make for regional integration;

4. Requests the United Nations Development Programme to increase the level of its support to UNTACDA II by funding part of the regional action programme for the implementation of the second phase of the UNTACDA II programme;

5. Invites all donors to contribute further to the implementation of the programme approved by the tenth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport and Communications;

6. Further requests the United Nations General Assembly to provide additional resources within the regular budget of the Economic Commission for Africa to enable it to pursue the major activities of the Decade action programme within its regular budget;

7. Further requests the African, Caribbean and Pacific "Coordinating" Ministers of the European Development Fund to give the appropriate priority to the Decade projects and programmes in the preparation of their national and regional indicative programmes under the second financial protocol of the Lomé IV Convention;

8. Further calls upon the development banks and participating financial institutions to continue

to work with the UNTACDA II programme machinery to provide coordinated and efficient support to the development of transport and communications in Africa;

9. Finally appeals to the World Bank to maintain a high level of involvement in and contribution to the implementation of the UNTACDA II programme;

10. Especially requests African financial institutions to provide further support to the UNTACDA II programme, particularly by taking systematically into account the guidelines and priorities of the Decade in the preparation of the action plans for African countries;

11. Further requests the subsectoral working groups to initiate such regional action as would provide a framework for intervention by those countries which plan to commercialize or privatize their transport and communications sector;

12. Decides that the Resource Mobilization Committee shall henceforth be known as the UNTACDA II Advisory Committee on Programme Promotion and adopts its term of reference as laid down in the report of the tenth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport and Communications;

13. Also requests the UNTACDA II Advisory Committee on Programme Promotion to lay emphasis on assistance to member countries in seeking, arranging and mobilizing funds for projects approved under the UNTACDA II programme;

14. Appeals to all financial institutions that are members of the Advisory Committee to play a more active role in the efforts geared to supporting the Committee's mission by providing it with the required technical expertise;

15. Requests the subsectoral groups to assist in the evaluation of projects falling within their areas of competence, coordination and integration of the Africa regional work programme of the United Nations specialized agencies with those of UNTACDA II;

16. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to:

(a) Disseminate systematically among all UNTACDA II partners information on the implementation of the Decade through workshops, seminars, symposia, other fora and information bulletins;

(b) Play a far more active role in coordinating the UNTACDA II programme and strengthen its own capacity to provide the necessary technical backstopping in support of programme implementation;

(c) Ensure that future evaluations of the implementation of UNTACDA II are based on a critical analysis of the degree to which Decade objectives have been achieved;

(d) Prepare a consolidated report on the status of implementation of all UNTACDA II projects using reports drafted by member States and intergovernmental organizations on the situation with regard to the status of their projects.

296th meeting,
3 May 1995.

Annex

Programme budget implications of resolution 804 (XXX)

1. The transport and communications component of the infrastructure and structural development subprogramme will focus on the expansion and efficient utilization of infrastructure essential for economic growth and transformation, with special emphasis on assisting member States in implementing the programme of the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa. An important feature of the activities will be active support and encouragement for increased private sector involvement in the development of transport and communication infrastructures and for the development of the human and technological capacity necessary to operate and maintain the economic infrastructure.

2. With reference to recommendation 14 of the mid-term evaluation of UNTACDA II and in compliance with operative paragraph 16(b) of the resolution, both urging ECA to play a more active leadership role, ECA intends to galvanize private sector involvement in the Decade activities through the organization of the major regional conference on the modalities and conducive environment under which privatization and commercialization of transport and communications services can take place in Africa.

3. Efficient transport and communications services constitute the principal physical integrative element of the African continent and remains the major concern of all African member States as evidenced in the transport and communications protocol of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community. To enable the regional

conference to achieve the maximum possible impact, it shall immediately precede the Assembly of OAU Heads of State and Government planned for mid-1997 and its outcome shall be considered by the Heads of State and Government to give it the highest political endorsement.

4. The regional conference shall therefore be designed for high-level African decision/policy makers at the ministerial level or thereabouts and shall be organized in collaboration with ADB and OAU in keeping with the spirit of the Joint OAU/ECA/ADB Secretariat of the African Economic Community.

5. Unless this regional conference is held during the 1996-1997 biennium, efforts at privatization and commercialization of transport and communications services in Africa would be unduly delayed with negative effects on attempts to improve these services in Africa.

6. For the period 1995-1997, below is a detailed description of the issues and concerns to be addressed by ECA under the provisions of this resolution. It should be pointed out that major elements of the activities which follow are over and above those that are contained in the 1996-1997 biennium work programme of subprogramme 8: Infrastructure and structural development.

7. In operative paragraph 6 of the present resolution, the United Nations General Assembly has been requested to provide ECA with the necessary regular budget resources to enable it to fulfil the objectives listed in paragraph 16(a) to (d), namely:

(a) Systematically disseminate information on all aspects of UNTACDA II - particularly its implementation - to all partners of the programme through workshops, seminars, symposia and information bulletins or newsletters;

(b) Play a more active role in coordinating the UNTACDA II programme by first strengthening its own capacity to be able to provide the necessary technical backstopping and support at all levels to the programme implementation;

(c) Ensure that the second mid-term evaluation of the programme in 1997 includes a critical analysis of the extent to which the Decade objectives have been achieved; and

(d) Prepare a consolidated report on the status of all the UNTACDA II projects on the basis of reports and information provided by member States and intergovernmental organizations on the progress made in the implementation of the national and subregional projects, respectively.

Administrative and reporting implications

8. None.

Reinforcement of current legislative mandate

9. The transport and communications subsectors have been accorded high priority in all recent development efforts in Africa. All major programmes of action for Africa's development have recognized the importance of transport and communications development in Africa. Resolutions ECA/UNTACDA/Res.89/82, ECA/UNTACDA/Res.91/84 and ECA/UNTACDA/Res.93/89 of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning; ECA Conference of Ministers resolutions 639 (XXIII) and 710 (XXVI); Economic and Social Council resolutions 1988/67 of 28 July 1988 and 1991/83 of 26 July 1991 and General Assembly resolutions 43/179 of 20 December 1988 and 46/456 of 20 December 1991, General Assembly decisions 46/456 of 20 December 1991 and 48/455 of 21 December 1993 and draft 1996-1997 biennium work programme, all constitute the current legislative mandates. The activities are an integral part of the regular programme activities of ECA in the fields of transport and communications.

Detailed costing of proposed activities 1996-1997

1. Consultancy US$161,500

Consultancy services shall be required to prepare policy/technical reports relating to the commercialization and privatization of transport and communications services in Africa. The reports shall include: one general report and seven modal reports on roads and road transport, railways, air, maritime, ports, communications and postal services (see operative paragraph 16(a) and (b) of the resolution).

The cost of preparation and presentation at a regional conference of each report is estimated at two man-months at a gross fee of US$19,000:

7 x $19,000 = $133,000

The cost of preparing the major policy document of the conference is estimated at three man-months of consultancy:

3 x $9,500 = $28,500

2. Conference US$63,020

A three-day regional conference on the policies and modalities for commercialization and privatization of transport and communications services shall be organized. Two high-level policy-/decision-making representatives from each member State shall be invited, as well as one representative from each of the five principal subregional intergovernmental organizations, chambers of commerce, leaders of the subsectoral working groups of UNTACDA II and OAU.

(a) Staff travel and DSA to conference

Travel	(12 x 2,500 = $30,000)
DSA	(12 x 9 x 130 = $10,040)
	$40,040

(b) Interpretation (2 English, 2 French, 2 Arabic)

Travel	(6 x 2,000 = $12,000)
DSA	(6 x 6 x 130 = $4,680)
Honorarium	(6 x 3 x 350 = $6,300)
	$22,980

Timing of activities

3. In view of the many complex technical and policy reports required for the regional conference on the privatization and commercialization of transport and communications services in Africa, it is proposed that the series of studies should commence before the end of 1995.

4. The organization and servicing of the conference has been planned to precede the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU in or about mid-1997.

1995 activities

5. Field activities by the seven modal consultants to assess the enabling environment in the various subregions conducive to private sector participation in transport and communications sectors shall be carried out. This shall involve the following modes: roads and road transport, railways, air, maritime, ports, communications and postal services.

Estimated cost: 7 x 2 x 9,500 = $133,000

1996-1997 biennium activities

6. Preparation of the major policy document of the conference on privatization of transport and communications services in Africa shall carried out. This shall require three man-months of high-level consultancy services.

Estimated cost: 3 x 1 x 9,500 = $28,500

7. Organization and servicing of an expert meeting followed by the regional conference.

Estimated cost: $63,020.

8. The total programme budget implication of the above activities is estimated at US$224,520.

9. The activities mandated by this resolution shall be carried out within existing resources of the 1994-1995 and 1996-1997 programme budgets. The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa is therefore mandated to prioritize activities of the 1994-1995 and 1996-1997 programme of work and priorities so as to accommodate the cost of the PBI of this resolution.

805 (XXX). *Food security and self-sufficiency in North Africa*

The Conference of Ministers,

Reaffirming the dire need to ensure food security and self-sufficiency in North African countries,

Taking note of the studies conducted on regional cooperation with a view to achieving food security and self-sufficiency in the North African subregion,

Aware of the need for the North African subregion to secure well-documented information about the effect of agricultural commodity trade liberalization under the Uruguay Round on the imports and exports of such products into and from the subregion,

1. Appeals to the international community to provide the necessary technical and financial assistance in this respect;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa should:

(a) Conduct by the use of nutritional studies an assessment of the food intake requirements of the people in the subregion;

(b) Consider the machinery for harmonizing economic policies being pursued on the one hand to attain the goal of food security and self-sufficiency and on the other to harmonize quality standards for agricultural products traded by countries of the subregion with third countries, as well as measures to be taken to build the necessary infrastructure;

(c) Consider ways whereby the management of agricultural pesticide stocks could be supported so as to render their use less hazardous to people and the environment;

(d) Organize a regional seminar on the management and exploitation of migratory fish stocks;

(e) Conduct a technical and economic feasibility study on the uses of date waste;

(f) Organize, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, a seminar on agricultural extension technologies;

3. Further requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to conduct a study on the impact of the Final Act of the Uruguay Round agreement on agriculture on the imports and exports of agricultural products on the countries of the North African subregion.

296th meeting,
3 May 1995.

806 (XXX). *United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders*

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolutions 392 (XV) of 12 April 1980, 609 (XXII) of 24 April 1987, 642 (XXIII) of 15 April 1988 and 661 (XXIV) of 7 April 1989,

Recalling further the numerous resolutions of the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations General Assembly affirming the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders' vital importance to Africa in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice,

Taking note of the recommendations of the fourth meeting of the Governing Board of the Institute held in Addis Ababa on 4 and 5 January 1995,

Recalling the Declaration on the Institute by the African Preparatory Meeting, held in Kampala on 14 and 15 February 1994,

Recognizing that considerable progress has been made since the establishment of the Institute in the fields of training, provision of advisory services, information and documentation, promotion of collaboration among governments of the region as well as establishment of useful contacts at regional and international levels,

Deeply appreciative of the continuous support and assistance of the United Nations General Assembly and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to the Institute ever since its inception,

1. Expresses its gratitude to the Government of Uganda for the generous provision of host facilities for the Institute;

2. Acknowledges with satisfaction the activities so far undertaken by the Institute towards the fulfilment of its mandate, under the overall policy guidance of its Governing Board, with the cooperation of the relevant United Nations organs;

3. Notes with satisfaction that, to date, 27 member States have ratified the Statute of the Institute;

4. Urges governments in the region which have not yet acceded to the Statute of the Institute to do so as a matter of priority in order to broaden the Institute's support base in the region;

5. Notes with satisfaction the action taken by the Governing Board to appoint a Director of the Institute;

6. Expresses its gratitude to the member States that have honoured their obligation to pay their assessed contributions to the Institute, and appeals to those who have not done so to make timely contributions, including payment of arrears, within a reasonable time to guarantee both the survival and the implementation of the work programme of the Institute;

7. Appeals to the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to renew its programme support to the Institute, taking into account the difficult economic and financial situation faced by most countries in the African region;

8. Also appeals to the United Nations to continue its financial support to the Institute to enable it to meet its administrative obligations on a sustained basis;

9. Endorses the recommendations of the Governing Board that the Chairmanship of the Board should be held by member States on a two-yearly rotational base from among the members of the Governing Board;

10. Approves the composition of the Governing Board of the Institute during the period 1995-1999 as follows:

(a) Tangier Multinational Programming and Operational Centre subregion: Egypt and Tunisia;

(b) Niamey Multinational Programming and Operational Centre subregion: The Gambia and Guinea;

(c) Yaounde Multinational Programming and Operational Centre subregion: Congo and Equatorial Guinea;

(d) Gisenyi Multinational Programming and Operational Centre subregion: Burundi and Rwanda;

(e) Lusaka Multinational Programming and Operational Centre subregion: Mozambique, United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda;

11. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to follow up on the implementation of this resolution.

296th meeting
3 May 1995

807 (XXX). *Programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1996-1997*

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and subsequent relevant resolutions on programme planning,

Recalling further its resolutions 728 (XXVII) and 769 (XXVIII) on restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields, and in particular strengthening the role of the Economic Commission for Africa to provide team leadership in addressing the region's development challenges and for enhancing its impact,

Reaffirming that measures to improve the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the secretariat and to improve the planning, programming and budgeting process as called for by General Assembly resolution 47/212, would significantly contribute to enhancing the effectiveness of the Commission in dealing with the development challenges facing the African region,

Conscious of the importance of the ongoing reform measures on the effectiveness of the United Nations resulting from General Assembly resolution 46/235 on the basis of which resources and activities have been decentralized from Headquarters to the Economic Commission for Africa during the 1994-1995 biennium,

Having examined the proposed programme of work and priorities of the biennium 1996-1997 contained in document E/ECA/CM.21/12,

Taking note of the new organizational structure which, among other things, is aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of the Commission,

Appreciative of the redeployment of resources to the Commission's regular programme for technical cooperation to enhance the multidisciplinary regional advisory services it renders to member States,

Noting with appreciation the grant made available to the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, significantly contributing to the operational capacity of the Commission,

1. Endorses the proposed programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1996-1997;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure, through the Administrative Committee on Coordination, that United Nations programmes and activities for the African region are coordinated and harmonized for cost-effectiveness, synergy and greater impact;

3. Urges the Secretary-General of the United Nations in making his proposals for the 1996-1997 programme budget to take into consideration the special development needs of the African region, by stressing the need to make available to the Commission adequate resources to enable it fully carry out those activities under programme 30: Regional cooperation for development in Africa and programme 45: African critical economic situation, recovery and development, in particular subprogramme 2 on monitoring, assessment, and follow-up of the implementation of action programmes, including their financial aspects;

4. Urgently appeals to the General Assembly to convert the grant to the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning to established core posts in the regular budget as called for in Economic and Social Council resolutions 1992/85 and 1993/68;

5. Appeals to the Committee for Programme and Coordination to consider these proposals favourably at its forthcoming session, and recommend, through the Economic and Social Council at

its substantive session in July 1995, their adoption by the General Assembly at its fiftieth session;

6. Calls upon the General Assembly and its Second and Fifth Committees to take all necessary actions to ensure that adequate resources are made available to the Commission for the implementation of this work programme;

7. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to endeavour to maintain and strengthen the cohesion of the programme of technical cooperation, especially at the implementation level.

296th meeting,
3 May 1995.

808 (XXX). *Strengthening of the operational capacity of the Economic Commission for Africa: United Nations Trust Fund for African Development*

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 779 (XXIX) of 4 May 1994 on the strengthening the operational capacity of the Commission,

Aware of the importance of extrabudgetary resources in general and the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development in particular in financing the Commission's operational activities in the African region,

Concerned over the continuous decreases in pledged contributions, due largely to the socio-economic crisis affecting most African countries,

Aware of the existence of the General Pledging Conference of the United Nations held annually at United Nations Headquarters,

Reaffirming the need for coordination and harmonization of the activities of both pledging conferences in order to avoid duplication of effort,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the countries which have pledged and fully paid their contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development;

2. Invites African countries and institutions, multilateral and bilateral donors, to continue their support of the Fund;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to review the operations of the Fund and make proposals for strengthening them, including the possibility of:

(a) Negotiating a schedule for the phased payment of contributions pledged or their outright cancellation;

(b) Merging of the Fund's biennial pledging conferences with the General Pledging Conference of the United Nations which is organized annually by the Secretary-General at United Nations Headquarters;

4. Further requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to take all the necessary steps to implement this resolution and to report thereon to the next Conference of Ministers.

296th meeting,
3 May 1995.

SPECIAL MEMORANDUM ON THE MID-TERM GLOBAL REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FOR THE 1990S

PREAMBLE

1. We, the Conference of Ministers responsible for Economic and Social Development and Planning convened in Addis Ababa for our thirtieth session/-twenty-first meeting from 1 to 3 May 1995, and acting for and on behalf of our Governments and peoples in the spirit of the Charters of both the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, have reviewed the progress achieved by the African least developed countries (LDCs) in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s.

2. It is our deep concern that the deteriorating socio-economic situation in the African LDCs, characterized by very low economic growth and continuous decline in per capita income, attributed partly to the adverse effects of climatic conditions and the aggravating factor of the civil wars, ethnic and other political conflicts had occasioned a growing number of refugees and displaced persons. The economies of these countries continue to suffer from formidable structural deficiencies and other basic constraints to growth and development. The ever-increasing number of least developed countries in Africa now number 33 countries as against 21 in 1981.

3. The negative impact of the unfavourable international economic environment on the African LDCs gives us special concern, especially as it relates to: shortages of foreign exchange resources and negligible inflows of foreign direct investment (FDI); the decline in total external

assistance, especially official development assistance (ODA); the continued inflexibility in the terms of aid; the exceptional severity of the debt burden and debt overhang; all of which have derailed the efforts of the African LDCs at adjustment and economic reforms.

4. In the spirit of the Paris Declaration and Programme of Action, the primary responsibility for their overall socio-economic development rests with the African LDCs themselves. The African LDCs have undertaken the necessary and often painful adjustments and economic reforms in order to restore growth and development. However, due to their narrow macroeconomic capacities and structural handicaps, such domestic efforts cannot induce the desired rate of economic growth if they are not supported by a favourable international economic environment, especially adequate external resources which should be predictable, timely and sustained.

5. The increasing wave of civil wars, ethnic and political violence in a number of the African LDCs which have had a devastating impact on normal living conditions and economic activities is a matter for serious concern. The international community is to be commended for providing generous assistance in support of conflict resolution and peacekeeping operations in those countries afflicted by these man-made disasters.

6. The spirit that prevailed at the second United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries has not been fully sustained since commitments made by the international community have not been implemented, and the achievements under the programme are far below expectations. Nonetheless, the Programme of Action remains a valid framework of reference for measures to be taken at the national and international levels with a view to effecting the necessary changes to improve the living standards of the African LDCs' populations.

7. The convening of the High-level Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action which will review progress made in the implementation of the programme at the national and international levels and, to consider new measures for accelerating the development process in the least developed countries during the next half of the 1990s is a welcome development. Such an important occasion has given us the impetus to prepare this Special Memorandum in the hope that the assessments and proposals it contains will be considered by the international community as an adequate framework for bringing about the necessary structural transformation and other positive changes in the economic and social development process in the African LDCs.

8. To ensure the successful outcome of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting, it is important that participation should be at the highest level wherever possible and that all countries, as well as multilateral and bilateral financial and technical assistance institutions should take the necessary steps to ensure appropriate preparations for the meeting.

I. SOCIO-ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE OF AFRICAN LDCs, 1990-1994

9. The average annual growth rate in GDP of the African LDCs is estimated at -0.03 per cent in real terms during 1990-1994. Agriculture, which absorbs more than 50 per cent of the labour force and contributes an average of 37.8 per cent to GDP in the African LDCs, declined by an annual average of 2.6 per cent during 1990-1994. Manufacturing output declined by an annual average rate of 2.6 per cent. Most of the African LDCs reported increasing budgetary deficits. This sluggish performance is attributed to both domestic and external factors. The domestic factors include, inter alia, the adverse climatic conditions, civil wars and other political conflicts that constrained production possibilities in a number of the African LDCs as well as unsustainable high internal debt.

10. Several African LDCs were seriously affected by drought, desertification and cyclones and their recurrence in the 1990-1994 period. As a result, food production was severely curtailed and most African LDCs had to depend on food imports and international food aid to meet domestic consumption requirements.

11. An assessment of the social conditions reveals that the African LDCs exhibited higher infant mortality and fertility rates whereas the population growth rate is estimated at 3.1 per cent currently, as compared to 2.7 per cent in the latter part of the 1980s. The rates of participation of women in education and the labour force, as well as employment in the formal sector are lower, as compared to those of men. It is estimated that about 65 and 30 per cent of rural and urban population respectively live below the poverty line in the African LDCs.

12. The ongoing democratization process in the African LDCs has not received the requisite external support essential for its sustainability. Such lack of support could endanger the fledging reform process.

13. The adverse external economic environment faced by the African LDCs in the period 1990-1994 had negatively affected their already fragile socio-economic structures. The decline in world demand and low prices for a number of primary commodities of export interest to the African LDCs substantially reduced export earnings, thus aggravating their balance-of-payments problems. In addition, the decline in ODA flows had weakened the ability of the African LDCs to implement adjustment and economic reform programmes.

14. The debt of the African LDCs worsened considerably in the early 1990s. Estimated at $78.2 billion in 1990, the total external debt of the African LDCs reached $87.8 billion by the end of 1993. Debt-service payments declined from $2.4 billion in 1990 to $1.8 billion in 1993 but this is basically attributed to debt rescheduling and growing debt arrears rather than a fundamental change in debt stock or debt-service obligations.

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION IN THE AFRICAN LDCs

15. In chapter II (a) of the Programme of Action, the LDCs were required to implement national and international policy measures to improve the environment for accelerated and sustainable development. Since 1990, all the African LDCs have adopted major policy reform measures including the liberalization of their economies. To enhance agricultural production (especially of food crops), producer prices have been freed as an incentive to farmers to increase output. Public enterprises have either been privatized or restructured to enhance their efficient management. Measures were taken to reduce the budget deficit through a freeze and/or reduction in the size of the public sector employment. Interest rates were restructured to encourage increased domestic savings and measures were taken to broaden the tax base.

16. The external and internal disequilibrium faced by the African LDCs caused a number of them to adopt structural adjustment programmes (SAPs). However, the adjustment programmes were not adequately funded. In general, the implementation of adjustment and economic reform programmes was constrained by several factors referred to earlier, which limited their effectiveness and impact.

17. The Programme of Action, in paragraph 23, states that donors should provide more than 0.20 per cent of their GNP to the LDCs as ODA. In general, total ODA from OECD/Development Assistance Committee (DAC) sources, which was an average of 0.09 per cent of GNP in 1990, dropped to 0.08 per cent in 1991 and 1992 and further to 0.07 per cent in 1993. Since 1990, however, a few donors have achieved this threshold and some are making progress towards achieving the target.

18. The Round-table and Consultative Group meetings should be further strengthened as an appropriate aid mechanism for aid mobilization and coordination. The policy dialogue at such fora leads to a better understanding of the LDCs macroeconomic policy frameworks and creates a better appreciation of their development assistance requirements. It is of great concern that a fewer number of African LDCs organized round table and consultative group meetings during 1990-1994 as compared with the 1980s. Consequently, the lead agencies, UNDP and the World Bank, should ensure that the country review process leads to translating the principles and commitments of the Programme of Action into concrete measures at the national level.

19. It is noteworthy and encouraging that some donors have taken measures in the context of UNCTAD Trade and Development Board resolution 165 (S-IX), the enhanced Toronto Terms and Trinidad Terms to ease the debt burden of a number of African LDCs. While much progress has been made, a number of donors are yet to implement such measures. As a result, about 21 African LDCs have continued to experience exceptionally severe debt burden and debt overhang.

20. In general, however, the commitments on international support measures have not been fully implemented. These include:

(a) External resource flows targets of bilateral ODA;

(b) Adequate increases in the allocation of multilateral aid programmes to LDCs;

(c) The creation of new mechanisms for increased financial transfers to LDCs;

(d) The improvement of aid modalities;

(e) The improvement of current commercial measures and practices.

21. The disappointing economic and social performance in the African LDCs during the first half of the 1990s clearly reinforces the need for a mid-term global review to appraise the implementation of the Programme of Action and to consider, formulate and adopt new policy measures to accelerate the development process in the LDCs during

the rest of the 1990s, in accordance with their national long-term social and economic objectives.

III. PROPOSALS ON MEASURES FOR THE ACCELERATED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION, 1995-2000

22. In the Programme of Action, the international community refused to accept the marginalization of the LDCs as an ethical imperative which also corresponds to long-term global economic and security interests. The Programme is based on shared responsibility and a strengthened partnership for the growth and development in LDCs. It also stipulates that the success in the implementation of the Programme of Action rests on the effectiveness of national policies, a favourable international economic climate and strengthened partnership based on mutual commitments. The Declaration defined five priority areas in the Programme of Action to form the basis of interactions by the LDCs in their struggle against poverty. The areas are: improvement in macroeconomic policy framework; the development of human resources; reversal in the trend of environmental degradation; promotion of an integrated policy of rural development; and development of a diversified productive sector based on private initiatives.

23. According to the human and social measures of development as reflected in educational, health and demographic variables, as well as the status of women, the African LDCs are faced with the formidable task of improving the living conditions of their people. This fact makes it imperative for a renewed focus on poverty alleviation within a human-centred development context.

A. National measures

24. A fundamental prerequisite in alleviating poverty is the empowerment of the poor in the African LDCs, for instance, through massive investment in human resource development in such areas as education, particularly basic education (with emphasis on vocational and other skills training) and health (rural health clinics and primary health care facilities and programmes) and in physical infrastructure (a transport network with priority to the development of rural roads, especially farm-to-market roads, rural electrification, postal and telecommunication facilities and clean piped-water, etc.).

25. The poor in the African LDCs must be empowered through a recognition and support of informal income-generating activities and the provision of credits through appropriate financial intermediation mechanisms suitable to their needs and capacities. Poverty alleviation programmes should be an integral part of short-, medium- and long-term development perspectives and plans, and must perforce be anchored in labour-intensive and employment-creating strategies.

26. There is a need for the African LDCs to continue to take actions to improve their existing macroeconomic policy frameworks and environment. To implement reforms and adjustment programmes would require the necessary human and institutional capacities and financial resources. While short-term macroeconomic stability and external viability may be the main objectives of SAPs, there is need for the adoption of wider economic reforms.

27. Efforts must be made to mobilize and efficiently utilize domestic resources. These should include the forging and formalization of the linkages between informal financial institutions and arrangements and the formal banking systems which could enhance the mobilization of domestic financial resources for investment. Domestic informal trade and unrecorded cross-border trade are also major sources of domestic private financial resources that could make an important contribution to economic development in the African LDCs. There is need to formalize these trading activities by simplifying licensing and administrative procedures and to provide them with adequate credit facilities. The African LDCs should take steps to encourage new private sector investments to develop and expand small- and medium-scale enterprises.

28. As regards domestic public resource mobilization, African LDCs must take steps to restructure public expenditures away from non-productive activities to the financing of the development budget. They also need to strengthen the efficiency of resource use and overall management. On the revenue side, there is need to restructure taxes and build up capacities to ensure an extensive coverage of taxable sources.

29. With regard to economic cooperation, African LDCs should intensify their efforts to implement the protocols of the Abuja Treaty by ensuring their effective participation in the subregional economic groupings. Being the weakest link in the chain, the African LDCs should emphasize the removal/reduction of tariffs; free movement of people and capital; improvement in transport and communications; and intensification of economic cooperation based on genuine interest to acquire inputs or to have access for their outputs within the African region.

30. The globalization and liberalization of the world economy would require the African LDCs to create an enabling environment to enhance the development of a production structure that would facilitate

their integration into the framework of the world economic system.

B. International support measures

31. In one of the key provisions of the Programme of Action, the international community committed itself to a significant and substantial increase in the aggregate level of external support to LDCs. However, implementation of the aid targets has been weak. Instead of donors improving their performance in the aggregate, there has been a movement away from target implementation, followed by lower aid contributions in general as noted earlier. Donors should endeavour to fulfil the commitments and targets established in the Programme of Action, particularly the 0.20 per cent of their GNP in the form of ODA resource flows to the LDCs and other targets and commitments. Alongside the issue of flows is the need to improve the quality and terms of ODA by increasing the grant and near grant elements while minimizing the tying of aid.

32. The debt problem of the African LDCs is not a matter of liquidity but one of solvency. While we appreciate the various debt-relief measures applied in favour of the African LDCs, creditor countries should anchor their political will in the spirit of global economic security and social development of the poor countries by deciding on an outright cancellation of all the debt owed to them by the African LDCs. Taking into account the debt-distressed situation of the African LDCs, their level of poverty and the continued deterioration in their economies, bilateral creditors/donors should strongly support the proposals made in 1990 by the Government of the Netherlands to unilaterally cancel official bilateral debt owed by the African LDCs.

33. Multilateral creditors should introduce the requisite flexibility in the application of conditionalities and performance criteria in both economic reforms and debt repayments of the African LDCs which are not capable of adhering to the stringent rules now being applied because of their narrow macroeconomic capacities and difficult resource problems. In addition to the current multilateral initiatives being implemented to ease the debt burden of low-income countries, multilateral financing institutions should innovate other arrangements aimed at substantially reducing the severity of the debt overhang of African LDCs.

34. While the Final Act of the Uruguay Round Agreements is a positive arrangement to enhance world trade, the challenges facing the African LDCs is to translate the Agreements into their fuller participation in international trade and their integration into the globalization process. To ameliorate the supply rigidities and narrow production base of the African LDCs, adequate financial and technical assistance, debt relief, improved market access and other trade and investment support are needed to enhance their supply capacity of tradeable goods and services. The African LDCs would need to develop and strengthen institutional and human capacities to formulate and manage legislation implementing the complex set of agree-ments of the Round. They would require substan-tial external support to offset the adverse con-sequences of the Round in the short run and ensure that they take full advantage of the special measures accorded to them in the various agree-ments. Apart from allowances to be made to extend the moratorium for the implementation of the Agreements - say from 15 to 20 years for the African LDCs - specific measures must be elabo-rated to enable these countries to retain existing benefits or obtain compensation for the losses they may incur as a result of the Agreements. Those preferential schemes which benefit the African LDCs must be extended and enlarged.

35. ECA, UNCTAD, ITC and WTO should provide adequate technical assistance to strengthen the institutional and human resource capacities in the African LDCs so as to enhance their capability to implement the Uruguay Round Agreements.

C. Follow-up mechanisms and monitoring

36. While the criteria for the designation of LDCs is presently focused on admission, some thought must be given to the development of a broad-based graduation criteria, including indicators related to the progress made towards graduation, the identification of sustainable development routes and the effectiveness of external assistance in bringing about the necessary changes in economic and social progress and to place the LDCs on a path of irreversible graduation.

37. The Executive Board of the World Bank and the Governing Council of UNDP should ensure that all necessary steps are taken to maintain the momentum of external resource mobilization efforts by convening the Consultative Group meetings and Round-table Conferences on behalf of the African LDCs in line with the provisions of the Programme of Action for the 1990s, and in view of General Assembly resolution 32/197 of December 1977 on ECA's responsibility for the coordination of overall development activities in the African region, the lead agencies should associate ECA in the organizational process.

38. There is also a need to reflect on the adequacy of the present mechanism for follow-up and monitoring of progress achieved in the implementation of the Programme of Action. Since the task of follow-up involves the regional commissions, UNCTAD, UNDP and the World Bank especially, there is a need to strengthen the inter-agency framework and to regularize possible modalities of interaction in a firm work plan and schedules and the necessary resources provided for its proper functioning.

IV. CONCLUSION

39. In the light of the above assessment and proposals, we recognize that there is a need for stronger efforts by both the African LDCs and their development partnership to implement the Programme of Action in consonance with the basic principles of the Paris Declaration and Programme of Action, notably that reversing the socio-economic decline of the African LDCs is a matter of ethical imperative. The experience of Botswana, which is the first country to graduate from the group of LDCs, shows how properly articulated national policies through the utmost national consensus-building on measures and programmes, prudent management of resources and sustained international support, can bring about the requisite economic and social progress in the African LDCs.

296th meeting,
3 May 1995.

DECLARATION ON AFRICA'S EXTERNAL DEBT

1. We, the African Ministers responsible for economic and social development and planning, meeting in Addis Ababa, during the thirtieth session of the Commission/twenty-first meeting of the Conference of Ministers from 1 to 3 May 1995, and acting on behalf of our governments and people, within the spirit of the charters of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, have, once more, examined the external debt problem of our continent in light of the theme of the session, i.e., promoting accelerated growth and sustainable development in Africa through the building of critical capacities.

2. We recall the Declaration on debt adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirtieth session held in June 1994 in Tunis, Tunisia, as well as the initiatives of the Non-Aligned Movement submitted to the Group of Seven Most Industrialized Countries (G7) at their 1994 summit in Naples.

3. We remain preoccupied by the continent's increasing debt burden which totalled 313 billion dollars in 1994 and accounts, to date, for 231.3 per cent of Africa's exports and 71.6 per cent, on the average, of the total GDP of the continent.

4. We feel that the African debt crisis is partly due to an international financial crisis and that, it is not therefore a temporary liquidity crisis and cannot be resolved through debt rescheduling agreements only. The African debt crisis has been further compounded by the worsening terms of trade for several of our major export commodities.

5. We have examined the various initiatives taken by the international community to reduce Africa's debt burden and noted the poor results obtained following the application of those initiatives. The impact on structural economic imbalances and the solvency crisis besetting our countries, is very limited and fails to address permanently the continent's external debt problem.

6. We reaffirm our commitment to the pursuit of economic reforms and request that our efforts should be met with substantial debt forgiveness and an increase in concessional flows so as to boost public investment in infrastructure and human resources and help attract more private investment.

7. We note that most of the initiatives taken to reduce the external debt of our countries focused on bilateral debt. The results obtained have been mixed and partly offset by the effects of commercial and multilateral debt. Savings from bilateral debt servicing have, indeed, been rapidly absorbed by multilateral and commercial debt servicing.

8. We express our appreciation to the Group of Seven Most Industrialized Countries for the Toronto Initiatives and the Naples Terms whose impact on our external debt, however, falls below our expectations both in terms of the stock of debt involved and the countries eligible.

9. We note with appreciation the Naples Terms and appeal to the international community to improve them in order to:

(a) Cater for an 80 per cent reduction in the total non-concessional debt of all African countries including accumulated interests;

(b) Allow for the cancellation of concessional debts rescheduled in the Paris Club;

(c) Institute innovative measures that would reduce:

(i) multilateral debts including the buy-back of this category of debt with proceeds from the sale of a part of the gold reserves of the International Monetary Fund;

(ii) commercial debt through improved Brady Plan mechanisms and the enhanced IDA Debt Reduction Facility.

10. We are aware that finding a lasting solution to the external debt problem of our countries would require, among other things:

(a) The pursuit of economic reforms likely to create an enabling environment for domestic and foreign investments and the reduction of the adverse effects of the external environment; and

(b) The forging of effective partnerships with bilateral creditors and multilateral institutions from which we request an increase in the flow of concessional resources, especially during the period of our economic restructuring.

11. We are of the opinion that the solution to debt problem should go hand-in-hand with investment and trade flows and that, in this respect, the conversion of debt for the financing of development programmes, such as entrepreneurship promotion, should be encouraged.

12. We propose that the mandate and terms of reference of the Paris Club should be expanded to include the holding forthwith of negotiations between our countries and their bilateral creditors and the multilateral financial institutions for co-ordinated action in order to find a positive solution to the African debt problem in all its bilateral, multilateral and private aspects, within the global framework for securing positive resource flows to Africa.

Done at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia,
3 May 1995.

MOTION OF APPRECIATION TO MR. LAYASHI YAKER

The Conference of Ministers,

Aware of the positive contribution that Mr. Layashi Yaker has made during his tenure of office as Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa,

Also aware of the important role he has played in championing the cause of Africa and the efforts he continues to make, particularly to impress upon the international community the need to assist African countries in their efforts to achieve integration and socio-economic development,

1. Expresses its full satisfaction with and deep gratitude to Mr. Layashi Yaker for the invaluable contribution he has made to the work of the Commission as part of his mission of promoting the interests of Africa;

2. Also expresses its firm belief that Mr. Layashi Yaker will certainly persevere in his efforts to uphold the interests of Africa.

CHAPTER V

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

244. The thirtieth session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa/twenty-first meeting of the Conference of Ministers responsible for economic and social development and planning was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 1 to 3 May 1995. The Conference had as its theme "Promoting accelerated growth and sustainable develop-ment through the building of critical capacities".

245. The Conference was formally opened by His Excellency Ato Tamrat Layne, Prime Minister of the Transitional Government of Ethiopia. The Secretary-General of the United Nations sent a message which was read to the Conference. Statements were delivered by Mr. Makha D. Sarr, Acting Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, H.E. Mr. Brownson Dede, Assistant Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, H.E. Mr. See-Young Lee, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea and special guest of the Commission, Ms. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau of Africa and H.E. Mr. Mustapha Kamal-Nabli, Minister of Economic Development of Tunisia, outgoing Chairman of the Commission. H.E. Mr. J.L. Mothibamele, M.P, Assistant Minister of Finance and Development Planning of Botswana, moved a vote of thanks.

246. The session unanimously elected H.E. Ato Neway Gebre-Ab, Minister in the Office of the President of the Transitional Government of Ethiopia, as Chairman. He was assisted in a bureau composed of the following elected officers: H.E. Mr. Pierre-Claver Mangaga-Maussavou, Minister in Charge of Planning and Territorial Administration of Gabon, First Vice-Chairman; H.E. Mr. Ali Hamdi, Minister for Planning of Algeria, Second Vice-Chairman; and H.E. Mr. Malcolm O. Cole, Ambassador of Sierra Leone to Ethiopia, as Rapporteur.

247. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following member States of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, the Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, the Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

248. Observers from the following Member States of the United Nations were present: Austria, Belgium, China, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Norway, Romania, the Russian Federation, Spain and Turkey.

249. The Holy See and Palestine, not Members of the United Nations, were also represented.

250. The Organization of African Unity, the African Development Bank, United Nations departments, organs and specialized agencies as well as several intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, including ECA-sponsored institutions participated at the meeting.

251. The session was the culmination of a series of intergovernmental meetings of subsidiary organs of the Commission which were successfully held in Addis Ababa and at the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres in the course of the past one month. These meetings provided valuable inputs into the work of the Conference.

252. The Conference reviewed the current economic and social situation in Africa and prospects for 1995. It noted that the growth of the African economy by 2.4 per cent in 1994, while reflecting a consolidation of the modest recovery that began in 1993 remained insufficient to halt the spread of poverty in Africa, as the rate continued to be below population growth rate, implying a decrease in income per capita in the region. The Conference noted the forecasted growth of 3 per cent for 1995.

253. The Conference underlined the importance and pertinence of the theme, "Promoting accelerated growth and sustainable development in Africa through the building of critical capacities". It noted that African countries did not lack plans or strategies for development. Rather, most countries lacked the capacities for sustained implementation of programmes of development. By building capacities where they did not exist, rehabilitating them where they have been destroyed, and utilizing capacities effectively where they do, African countries will overcome the obstacles to efficient and effective implementation of development strategies both at the national and regional levels. The Conference took note of the progress report on the framework agenda for building and utilizing critical capacities in Africa and expressed the belief that the proposed framework agenda would provide a useful guide for action by member States according to their national priorities.

254. Proposals were offered for strengthening the framework agenda for its finalization. It was proposed that the present eight priority areas of capacity building should be restructured to provide a clearer

focus within each component of the framework agenda. In this regard, possible additions could be the areas of economic integration, cooperation and negotiating capabilities; management of the environment; and science and technology. It was also recommended that the framework agenda should be elaborated with built-in flexibility with a view to giving recognition to the primacy of country-level activity in the eventual operationalization of the framework agenda. Selected country case studies, with workshops being held to facilitate the tapping of insights closer to the ground, would go a long way to make the framework agenda realistic and, ultimately, implementable by individual countries. Measurable success would require definitive actions on specific priorities which would be set by individual countries or through regional cooperation.

255. The Conference noted the coincidence of the Cairo Agenda for Action for relaunching the socio-economic development of Africa adopted in March 1995 at the seventeenth extraordinary session of the OAU Council of Ministers and the twenty-first meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers' theme of promoting accelerated growth and sustainable development in Africa. The Cairo Agenda for Action focused on the political will required by African States to take responsibility for their development in the highly challenging new international environment and the framework focused on Africa's efforts to build its critical capacities to buttress the development process. It was the view of a number of delegations that the three continental organizations, OAU, ECA and ADB, should work hand in hand and provide the necessary technical assistance to the member States to enable them to implement the Cairo Agenda for Action and the framework agenda for building and utilizing critical capacities in Africa.

256. The Conference noted efforts which African countries had deployed to alleviate the burden of poverty and to cushion the vulnerable segments of their populations from negative impacts of economic structural adjustment programmes (SAPs). It was noted that several countries had devised and were continuously refining safety net social support programmes for targeted vulnerable groups. With a view to maximizing the impact of scarce fiscal resources, a number of delegations reported that their countries were in the process of re-ordering social development priorities, shifting emphasis towards basic education and primary health care with particular stress on preventative measures, including rural potable water supplies and sanitation. It was emphasized that particular attention should be paid to the education of girls and women and to make special provisions for mother and child health care, in line with the adage that if one educated a woman, one therefore educated a nation. It was observed that persistence with the realistic social policies did pay dividends in terms of alleviating poverty.

257. The Conference observed that despite notable efforts, Africa's worsening external debt situation remained one of the major constraints to Africa's economic recovery. While welcoming the adoption by the Paris Club of the Naples Terms, and the fact that some African countries were already benefiting from debt relief provided under the Facility, it was nonetheless noted that additional facilities were needed to obtain a durable solution to the African debt problem. In this regard, special emphasis was placed on the need to tackle the problem of multilateral debts in such a way as to ensure that multilateral debt relief was not achieved at the expense of official development finance and concessional flows.

258. The Conference considered the proposal on the establishment of an African bank for women. Several delegates expressed support for it. However, it was emphasized that the bank must operate within the confines of the laws governing the banking industry in the respective countries. At the same time, it was suggested that the bank should operate as a development or merchant bank lending to institutions or associations instead of individuals. It was also suggested that issues relating to the share price of the bank should be reserved for the board of the bank. It was indicated that the proposal to allocate 60 per cent of the shares of the bank to women should be implemented with caution. It was suggested that shareholding should be spread among enterprises, institutions and any interested groups.

259. Recognizing the pertinence of peace and political stability to the achievement of growth and prosperity, the Conference noted with satisfaction the progress regarding democratization and people's empowerment in several countries. Many delegates urged member States to accelerate the implementation of strategies aimed at promoting social integration, national cohesion, political peace and stability and stressed the need for good governance and respect for human rights. The Conference stressed the need for Africa to manifest its seriousness not only in the economic sphere, but also in its determined effort to settle conflicts and internal strife, so as to usher in a region peace, stability and security without which no meaningful development could take place. In this regard, the Conference noted with satisfaction the effective functioning of the OAU mechanism for conflict prevention, management and resolution.

260. The Conference reviewed progress reports on the preparations and follow-up to international conferences as well as regional and international programmes relevant to Africa's development. These included the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD.94); the World Summit for Social Development held in Copenhagen, Denmark, March 1995; the fourth World Conference on Women; the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II); the Mid-term Global Review

of the Implementation of the Paris Declaration and Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries; implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s; and the Mid-term evaluation of the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (UNCTADA II). The Conference noted with interest that the common positions adopted by African countries have formed useful inputs into international conferences that have been held. Member States were encouraged to participate actively in the forthcoming international conferences and other meetings devoted to reviews of various international programmes.

261. The Conference adopted 15 resolutions dealing with several issues. These included harmonization, rationalization and strengthening of regional economic communities; building Africa's information highway; African Common Position for the advancement of women; resource mobilization for the implementation of the African Platform for Action; accelerated implementation of the Programme of Action in the African least developed countries during the second half of the 1990s; implementation of phase II of the programme for the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa; promotion of private investment in Africa; promoting human development in Africa; Strategy and Action Plan for Water Resources; Assessment, Development and Management in Africa; food security; self-sufficiency; United Nations Trust Fund for African Development and technical cooperation among African countries.

262. The Conference further adopted a declaration on external debt of African countries, and a special memorandum on the mid-term global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries for the 1990s.

263. The Conference considered and endorsed the programme of work and priorities for the Commission for the 1996-1997 biennium. It also took note of the new organizational structure of the ECA secretariat.

264. A pledging conference for the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development was held during the meeting. Several member States of the Commission and some development partners announced pledges to the Fund.

265. Finally, the Conference expressed its sincere appreciation to the Government and people of Ethiopia for their generous hospitality and for facilitating the work of the Commission.

Done at the headquarters of
the Economic Commission for Africa
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
3 May 1995

Annex I

REPORT OF THE SIXTEENTH MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (24 TO 28 APRIL 1995) AS ADOPTED BY THE THIRTIETH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION/ TWENTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS

A. *Attendance and organization of work*

1. The sixteenth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole (TEPCOW) was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 24 to 28 April 1995. At its official opening, the meeting observed a minute of silence in tribute to the late Hedi Ghorbal, of Tunisia, Chairman of the fifteenth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole, who had died in a tragic car accident. The meeting was formally opened by H.E. Mr. Mekonnen Manyazewal, Vice-Minister of Planning and Economic Development of the Transitional Government of Ethiopia. Mr. Makha D. Sarr, Acting Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, also delivered a statement at the opening ceremony of the meeting. Mr. G.N. Thipe, the representative of Botswana moved a motion of appreciation on behalf of the participants.

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following member States of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, the Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

3. Observers from the following Member States of the United Nations were present: China, Finland, France, Germany, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Romania and the Russian Federation.

4. The Holy See, not a Member of the United Nations, was also represented.

5. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented: Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, United Nations Regional Commissions New York Office (RCNYO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD/GATT), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), World Food Programme (WFP), International Labour Organisation (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Health Organization (WHO), World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Meteorological Organization (WMO) United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and Office of the Special Co-ordinator for Africa and Least Developed Countries of the United Nations (UN-OSCAL-DPCSD).

6. The Organization of African Unity was represented.

7. Observers were present from the following intergovernmental organizations: African Association for Public Administration and Management (AAPAM), African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development (ACARTSOD), African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP), African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI), African Regional Centre for Engineering, Design and Manufacturing (ARCEDEM), African Regional Organization for Standardization (ARSO), Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL), Inter-African Committee (IAC), *Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques* (IFORD), League of Arab States (LAS), Regional Centre for Training in Aerospace Surveys (RECTAS) and Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS).

8. The Committee elected the following officers:

Chairman:	Ethiopia
First Vice-Chairman:	Gabon
Second Vice-Chairman:	Algeria
Rapporteur:	Sierra Leone

9. The Committee established two open-ended subcommittees on resolutions and on the Global Mid-term Review of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, respectively under the chairmanship of Algeria and Gabon. The following were the core members of the resolutions subcommittee:

West Africa:	Togo and Nigeria
North Africa:	Egypt and Morocco
East Africa:	Kenya and Djibouti
Southern Africa:	South Africa and Malawi
Central Africa:	Burundi and Equatorial Guinea

B. *Agenda*

10. On 24 April 1995, the Committee adopted the following agenda:

Conference theme:
Promoting accelerated growth and sustainable development in Africa through the building of critical capacities

1. Opening of the meeting.

2. Election of officers.

3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

PART I
Perspectives of Africa's socio-economic development

4. (a) Economic and social situation in Africa, 1995;

    (b) Prospects for the implementation of the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community and other issues in regional co-operation and integration; and

    (c) Progress report on a framework agenda for building and utilizing critical capacities in Africa.

PART II
Regional cooperation for development in Africa

5. (a) Preparation and follow-up to regional and international conferences and programmes:

        (i) Special session of OAU Ministers on Africa's economic and social questions;

        (ii) International Conference on Population and Development;

        (iii) World Summit for Social Development;

        (iv) Fourth World Conference on Women;

        (v) Second United Nations Conference on Human Settle-

        (vi) Mid-term review of the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s;

        (vii) Report on the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF);

        (viii) Progress report on the mid-term evaluation of the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (UNTACDA II).

    (b) Trade, development finance and regional cooperation:

        Reviving private investments in Africa: Policies, strategies and programmes;

    (c) Human development:

        Human development in Africa, 1995 report;

    (d) Socio-economic empowerment of women in Africa:

        Establishment of the African bank for women: Progress report;

    (e) Poverty alleviation through sustainable development:

        Food and agricultural production, food security and food self-sufficiency in Africa.

PART III
Statutory issues

6. Issues from subsidiary organs and sectoral bodies of the Commission calling for action by the Conference of Ministers.

PART IV
Programme of work and priorities of the Commission

(b) Programme evaluation at ECA.

8. Strengthening the operational capacity of ECA: Programme of technical cooperation under the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD).

9. Any other business.

10. Date and venue of the seventeenth meeting of TEPCOW.

11. Adoption of the report.

12. Closure of the meeting.

C. *Account of proceedings*

Opening addresses

11. In his opening statement, H.E. Mr. Mekonnen Manyazewal, Vice-Minister of Planning and Economic Development of the Transitional Government of Ethiopia, welcomed participants to the meeting. He noted that, although the economic performance of most African countries had improved in 1994, the overall performance of the African economy during the period 1990-1994 had continued to be below the fast rate of growth in population. As a result, per capita income in Africa had continued to deteriorate, leading to an increasing proportion of Africa's population living under conditions of extreme poverty.

12. He noted that there were no shortages of ideas and solutions to Africa's economic and social problems. Under the auspices of regional and international organizations, numerous strategies and plans of action for the development of Africa had been adopted over several years. He underlined that what Africa needed now was a critical enquiry into the failures of operationalizing the various strategies and plans of action needed to bring about long-term transformation of the African economy.

13. He considered the theme of the Conference most appropriate and timely. He proposed that the deliberations of the meeting should focus on measures for overcoming the constraints to the implementation of the various strategies and plans of action already adopted in the past years. He expressed the belief that many of the implementation problems were internal rather than external factors to Africa and thus should be identified and addressed to enable Africa to put its house in order and create the necessary conditions to cope with external factors.

14. He noted that lack of systematic action on building and enhancing the critical human, institutional and physical infrastructural capacities in Africa development during the past decades. He observed that the inability to build the required capacities resulted from such factors as distorted economic policies, misallocation and inefficient use of resources and resource flight in the form of human and capital drain in many African countries.

15. The Minister further observed that external debt, accumulation of debt arrears, the capitalization of interest and the general hardening of lending terms constituted major constraints to the economic revival of Africa through their adverse impact on resource availability to support development programmes. Hence, there was need for new initiatives and approaches in dealing with these problems.

16. In conclusion, the Minister informed the meeting that the Transitional Government of Ethiopia had taken several measures to build its human, institutional and physical capacities, with emphasis on agriculture and human capacity building. He underlined that vocational and technical training, as well as preventive health care would enhance human resource capacity building and realize its contribution to the important sector of agricultural production. In addition, the Government had taken a number of policy measures to create a stable macroeconomic environment which was directly related to capacity building. A legal and economic policy environment had also been put in place to realize private sector participation in development.

17. In his statement, Mr. Makha D. Sarr, Acting Executive Secretary conveyed, on behalf of the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa, participants at TEPCOW and on his own behalf, sincere condolences to the Government and people of Tunisia and especially to the bereaved family of the late Hedi Ghorbal, Chairman of the fifteenth meeting of TEPCOW.

18. The Acting Executive Secretary welcomed all participants to the sixteenth meeting of TEPCOW. He also expressed, on behalf of all participants, sincere thanks to H.E. Mr. Mekonnen Menyazewal for addressing the opening session of the sixteenth meeting of the Committee. He said the Minister's presence demonstrated the support of the people and Government of Ethiopia for the Commission, its secretariat as well as the entire United Nations system in Addis Ababa. He also paid tribute to Mr. Layashi Yaker, former Executive Secretary of ECA who had left the Commission two months ago, on the completion of his term of office.

19. The Acting Executive Secretary noted that, since its first meeting in 1980 during which it contributed significantly to the formulation of the Lagos Plan of Action, TEPCOW had initiated many programmes and common positions. These included the

Decade for Africa, Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery which led to the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, the African Common Position on environment and development, the African Common Position on population and development, the African Common Position on human and social development, the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes, and the Addis Ababa Action Plan for Statistical Development in Africa.

20. The Acting Executive Secretary said that the theme of the present session of the Commission, "Promoting accelerated growth and sustainable development in Africa through the building of critical capacities", was a logical follow-up to that of the last session. He stressed that for Africa to improve the living standards of its people and occupy the position to which it aspired in international economic relations, it must institute and develop the requisite capacities for accelerated growth and sustainable development.

21. Reviewing the economic and social situation in Africa during the past year, he observed that ECA estimates showed that the gross domestic product (GDP) for the whole continent, South Africa included, rose by 2.4 per cent in 1994, as against 0.9 per cent in 1993 and -0.3 per cent in 1992. He noted, however, that because the annual population growth rate was at about 3 per cent, average per capita incomes had continued to decline following previous trends.

22. With regard to external trade, the Acting Executive Secretary said that the fragile production structures of African countries and the instability of commodity markets did not allow for a considerable increase in exports whose value totalled only $89.6 billion in 1994, an amount lower than the average of the three previous years of this decade. With their prices increasing more than their volume, imports amounted to $97.8 billion in 1994, thereby worsening the current account deficit, which had reached $10.5 billion as against $7.8 billion in 1993 and $6.2 billion in 1992. In 1994, Africa accounted for 2.4 per cent of world trade compared to 3 per cent in 1993. He pointed out that external debt continued to be a main constraint to development, totalling $312.2 billion at the end of 1994. This amount represented 71.6 per cent of the region's GDP. He stressed that Africa, like other regions of the world in transition, should benefit from the more radical measures adopted on the reduction of external debt.

23. He noted that the transition towards democratic governance was expanding, though with some difficult adjustments in some areas. Progress had been made in matters of political pluralism, human rights, transparency and accountability. South Africa had cleared the hurdle of apartheid to become a multiracial democracy. The Abuja Treaty had entered into

communities had continued to be strengthened. He cautioned, however, that these encouraging developments should not conceal the challenges which lay ahead. For example, the most important concern was the slow pace at which economic structures in Africa were being transformed. The dual nature of African economies still persisted, with a substantial subsistence economy existing alongside a relatively narrow modern sector, generally geared towards the export of agricultural and mineral commodities.

24. The Acting Executive Secretary expounded on the various substantive issues that were on the agenda before the Committee. He also referred to the Commission's work programme for the 1996-1997 biennium which the Committee was also to consider. The special feature of the work programme was that it would be based on the new structure of the Commission's secretariat.

25. The Acting Executive Secretary also referred to the Pledging Conference for the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD) that would be held on 3 May 1995. He underlined that the Fund was of vital importance to the operational activities of the Commission. In this regard, he paid tribute to the African countries which had maintained their contributions to the Fund despite the economic difficulties they were experiencing. He also thanked the bilateral and multilateral partners who in 1994/1995 generously contributed to the Fund.

26. The representative of Botswana moved a vote of thanks on behalf of the participants. He thanked H. E. Mr. Mekonnen Manyazewal for his statement which had provided constructive and useful ideas for the agenda of the meeting, as well as acquainting participants with the efforts of the Transitional Government of Ethiopia towards capacity building for sustainable development.

27. He expressed gratitude to the President of the Transitional Government of Ethiopia, H. E. Mr. Meles Zenawi and to the Government and people of Ethiopia for the hospitality and courtesies accorded to the participants. He also thanked the Acting Executive Secretary for his statement and the secretariat of the Commission for the quality of the documents which had been prepared in good time for the meeting of the Committee.

28. The representative of Tunisia, whose country was chairman of the fifteenth meeting of TEPCOW, recalled that in endorsing the preliminary report on "A framework agenda for building and utilizing critical capacities in Africa" in 1994, the ECA Conference of Ministers had expressed the need for a process of consultations, analyses and decision making on critical areas such as the safeguard, promotion, rational and optimal use of the continent's human, natural and institutional capacities.

29. He deplored particularly the fact that a large number of the African population lived in abject poverty; that 60 per cent of African children were either not educated or dropped out of the school system at an early age and that 14,000 African children died each day due to malnutrition, diseases, epidemics and other scourges. It was also regrettable to observe that human resources so much needed for the advancement of Africa were steadily being squandered in wars which deprived the region of the stability required for growth and development. In that connection, he emphasized that peace should be considered as a prerequisite to all development efforts.

30. He called upon member States to find rapidly and effectively ways and means to implement the various strategic development programmes adopted by the Commission. He stressed that the assistance of the international community should only supplement the efforts made by the African States themselves. He wished the Committee every success in its deliberations.

PART I
PERSPECTIVES OF AFRICA'S SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic and social situation in Africa, 1995 [agenda item 4(a)]

31. Under this agenda item, the Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.21/3 entitled "Report on the economic and social situation in Africa, 1995". In assessing the economic performance of Africa in 1994 and the prospects for 1995, the Committee noted that the 2.4 per cent growth achieved in 1994 came to confirm the modest recovery which had begun in 1993 without, however, showing any tangible signs that the recession which had set in as far back as 1990 was going to be reversed. Despite a mean annual GDP growth rate of 1.4 per cent over the period 1990-1994, per capita income had decreased by 1.6 per cent on average over the same period as a result of the particularly rapid pace of population growth. The persistence of Africa's economic crisis had been reflected in the spread of poverty both in the rural and urban areas, with the result that the social fabric continued to be eroded.

32. The Committee noted the disparities in economic performance among the subregions and countries as well as the fact that an increasing number of countries had achieved growth rates far exceeding the regional average. Central Africa was the only subregion to record a negative GDP growth rate which went from -5.0 per cent in 1993 to -5.4 per cent in 1994. North Africa had recorded a 4 per cent growth rate which was particularly high when compared to the two preceding years. The countries of Eastern and Southern Africa had slowly emerged from the drought which hit them in 1992 with respective growth rates of 1.6 and 0.4 per cent in 1994, as compared to the negative rates recorded in 1993. Although they achieved the highest annual mean growth rate in Africa for the period 1990-1993, the performance of the countries of the West African subregion had declined by 1.9 percentage points in 1994, as compared to the 4.0 per cent growth of 1993.

33. The Committee noted that a number of factors combined with the structural weaknesses in African economies had continued to affect overall economic performance adversely and with varying degrees among the subregions, countries and even production sectors. While climatic conditions and natural disasters had had decisive influences on the level of agricultural output and cash crop farming in certain subregions, internal armed conflicts, social turmoil accompanying political transition, difficulties in pursuing economic reform, the incoherence of certain economic policy shifts, declining international support for Africa's development efforts, the debt burden and the unfavourable international economic environment continued to weigh heavily on many national economies in Africa. The main handicap, however, was the inability of these economies to transform radically the production structures inherited from colonization in such a manner as would enable them to cope with the exigencies of sustainable and self-sustaining development and promote the transition to a modern industrial and technological society.

34. The Committee was concerned by the decline of Africa's agricultural output whose 2.1 per cent growth rate in 1994 had been 1.6 percentage points less than the figure for 1993. Overall, some countries had experienced vicissitudes of weather which had had disastrous effects on their crops. The poor rainfall of the third quarter of 1993 had continued into the first quarter of 1994 in Central, Eastern and Southern Africa. For that reason, about 10 countries facing a food deficit throughout the first half of 1994 had resorted to food imports and international assistance. With regard to cash crops, the producer price incentives instituted in certain groups of countries had yet to be reflected in significant quantitative output despite a slight recovery in the coffee and cocoa commodity markets.

35. The Committee noted that, once more, the performance of mining industries had been affected by unfavourable conditions in the major producing countries and the trends of world market prices. Mining output had been steadily declining since 1992 partly because of the crisis some major producing countries were undergoing and partly because of the lack of capital reinvestment. Even South Africa, which happened to be the major producer of the region, had recorded a 5.5 per cent decline in its mining output in 1994. The level of petroleum production in 1994 remained similar to that of 1993. Such stagnation had to do with the constraints imposed under world output regulation mechanisms and/or the saturation of

the production capacity of certain countries. Mineral and mineral ore prices had rallied while those of oil products such as Brent crude had fallen by an average of 7.0 per cent.

36. The Committee found the growth pattern of the external sector disturbing, particularly as Africa was facing new challenges arising from the liberalization of world trade with the entry into force of the Uruguay Round agreements. Africa's trade with the rest of the world continued to be dominated by the export of primary commodities and the import of manufactures. In real terms (at 1990 prices), export revenue had increased by 4.0 per cent in 1994, reflecting a 2.6 per cent gain in purchasing power, as compared to the 4.8 per cent loss in 1993. The value of imports had grown by 6.5 per cent. The diversification programmes launched by many governments as one of their main development strategies did not seem to be fully yielding the expected results because of the persistence of such impediments as restrictive business practices and the unfavourable impact of SAPs on diversification schemes.

37. The Committee noted that Africa's debt burden had grown heavier to an estimated amount of $312.2 billion. Though the rate at which the debt had grown was much slower than that of other developing regions, it was the heaviest and most constraining factor from the development finance point of view. The stock of debt inexorably tended to absorb GDP by way of the capitalization of payment arrears while any appropriations made from the meagre export earnings deprived economic operators of essential foreign exchange to import equipment and spare parts. The little impact that the international strategy for debt treatment had had on Africa's debt crisis called for rethinking debt-relief measures in such a way as to take into account the specific nature of the financial crisis in Africa.

38. The persistent deterioration of social indicators was disquieting. Population pressure in Africa was imposing limits on the rational management of resource and worsening environmental degradation. It was creating social problems in terms of housing, sanitation, health, education and placing unbearable pressure on existing and ageing urban facilities. The degree to which the countries addressed these problems would depend on the resources committed within the context of social policies pursued in harmony with overall development objectives.

39. The Committee observed that in 1995, the economic prospects of Africa would once again be determined by the international environment and the pattern of the domestic developments. In domestic terms, the settlement of conflicts and the dissipation of tensions resulting from the protracted and unsteady process of democratization should make it possible to consolidate political stability on the continent.

40. Nevertheless, the output of certain sectors of activity would continue to depend on climatic conditions. Should the unfavourable climatic conditions recorded in some countries of the Maghreb, Southern Africa and the Horn of Africa persist, agricultural output would grow only modestly, by about 2.7 per cent. Externally, the projected rallying of coffee and cocoa prices as well as the rise in metal and mineral prices should boost export earnings and investment recovery. Under these assumptions, regional GDP could increase by 3.0 per cent in 1995.

41. The Committee noted that the report had put well-deserved emphasis on social issues this year. This was a welcomed departure from the past, when the focus was almost exclusively on economic issues. However, the Committee observed that some other important issues had either been omitted or given insufficient treatment in the report. For example, issues of social justice, popular participation, gender equality, the aged, the disabled and the plight of orphans due to AIDS were not analyzed. The report should also have highlighted the fact that although new influxes of refugees continue, a significant number of refugees returned home to their countries of origin in 1994. Action needs to be taken to facilitate their rehabilitation and reintegration. It was explained that many of these issues would be dealt with in great detail in the annual Economic and Social Survey of Africa which will be released after the Conference. The present report was an abridged version of the Survey.

42. The Committee also noted with interest the emphasis the report had given to the question of diversification of African economies. Diversification is as an essential element in making African economies competitive. The Committee observed that improving Africa's competitiveness in the world economy would benefit from improved standards and quality control for its products. It was, therefore important that African institutions working on these issues be supported.

43. Some representatives pointed out certain inaccuracies in the data provided in the report. These related, for example, to the data relating to their countries on budget deficits; economic growth rate - which in one case was attributed to differences in exchange rate used; growth rate of manufacturing value added, and commodities. Some of the participants indicated that they would provide the secretariat with correct and more recent data as it concerned their countries.

44. The Committee took note of the report in the light of the above observations.

Prospects for the implementation of the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community and other issues in regional cooperation and integration [agenda item 4(b)]

45. Under this agenda item, the Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.21/4 entitled "Implementation of the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community: Progress made and prospects."

46. The Committee noted that the document formed part of the ongoing reflection regarding previous proposals submitted to TEPCOW in previous years on the implementation of the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community. The Committee took note of the various activities that the Joint OAU/ECA/ADB Secretariat had carried out in the implementation of the Treaty. The Committee also noted that the Treaty had entered into force on 12 May, 1994 and had been ratified, to date, by 36 member States of the Commission, and that several draft and preliminary draft protocols were either being considered by the Permanent Steering Committee of OAU or were about to be submitted to it for consideration. This was particularly the case of the draft protocol on health which would be considered by African Ministers of Health. In this regard, several sectoral studies had been conducted in the various subregions on infrastructural development, production and trade liberalization.

47. Regarding the harmonization and rationalization of subregional economic integration institutions, the secretariat observed that, in contrast with past approaches that advocated the immediate merger of certain institutions and the abolition of others which had proved unrealistic, the report presented to this meeting of TEPCOW recommended a graduated approach. This new approach would entail physical integration and the integration of production systems - which were the same objectives sought in previous approaches to the issue.

48. As regards rationalization of ECA-sponsored institutions, the secretariat made a report on the situation. The secretariat requested member States to make their position known regarding the proposals that had been circulated to them previously. To date, only seven countries had responded. The secretariat urged those countries which had not yet done so to state their position in writing to the Committee of Ten which would hold its meeting on Thursday, 27 April 1995.

49. The Committee noted that the establishment of rules of origin of products to be traded within the regional communities should be compatible with member States' requirements, particularly with regard to the criteria for equity shares participation as between nationals and foreigners. Some countries had eliminated the clause on equity participation which stipulated that nationals should hold majority shares in business enterprises located in their countries. This was designed to attract foreign investments. The Committee noted that since 1986, PTA (now COMESA) had abolished the requirement of majority shareholding by nationals as a criterion for determining the origin of products. Instead, the emphasis was now placed on local value added to products. The Committee also took note of the proposal that a simplified and standardized certificate of origin should be made available and that both the rules of origin and the customs nomenclatures should be unified.

50. The Committee noted the importance of an efficient and equitable compensation system to the success of economic integration process. For the African subregional groupings, a compensation rate of 60 per cent would seem to address this concern so long as the funds generated were channelled into investment projects as a way of improving the production systems of recipient countries. Obviously, for any integration scheme to succeed, other complementary measures would have to be taken. Such measures would include the adoption of a common external tariff which would ensure selective and effective protection, the simplification of indirect domestic taxation (particularly through the adoption of a value added tax which would eventually reduce and abolish the cumulative effects of certain taxation systems), as well as the establishment of a pricing system which would work in the mutual interest of economic operators and consumers and not impair the competitiveness of products which formed the subject of intra-community trade.

51. Regarding the problematic issue of financing integration in Africa, the Committee noted the urgent need to establish mechanisms for the mobilization of domestic funds. The experience of certain subregions had shown that such resources would need to be mobilized by way of taxation on as wide a base as feasible using, for example, a levy on imports from third countries. The rate of the levy would be set on the basis of financial requirements and the magnitude of the tax base. In any event, the prospects for integration in Africa would depend on the resources that member States were prepared to commit since external resources would only come to complement the efforts made by Africans themselves. In this regard, the Committee noted the proposal that the resources for integration purposes should be financed partly from equal assessments of member States and partly from a GDP-prorated assessment of member States. This was essential to avoid the trap of dependency on and the unpredictability of foreign funding for regional integration programmes. To do so, the Committee requested the Joint OAU/ECA/ADB Secretariat, the subregional communities and African States to give the required priority to the harmonization and rationalization of subregional groupings and

the mobilization of resources necessary for the financing of the integration process.

52. The Committee expressed concern at the slow pace of integration in Africa. It, therefore, urged member States to commit themselves to an accelerated pace of integration. In order to speed up the implementation of the Treaty, the Committee felt that the Joint OAU/ECA/ADB Secretariat should mount a campaign to publicize the Treaty among the various segments of society, most particularly among economic operators in the private sector who should be interested in the success of the project. The Committee underlined the need to support the strengthening of all subregional integration groupings and for national legislation to be harmonized with the provisions of the Abuja Treaty. At the same time, it was important that each African country supports the subregional economic community to which it belongs and also ratifies the Treaty. The Permanent Steering Committee of OAU should, in the view of the Committee, speed up its consideration of the various protocols so that they could enter into force as soon as possible.

53. The Committee welcomed recent efforts to involve the subregional economic communities in the discussion of African socio-economic development issues at such fora as the international conference on the impact of the Final Act of the Uruguay Round on African economies and the recent extraordinary session of the OAU Council of Ministers on the economic and social situation of Africa. The Committee suggested that the subregional economic communities should be further involved in subsequent discussions related to the Abuja Treaty, in particular, the various protocols.

54. Given the fact that a protocol on the Solidarity, Development and Compensation Fund was being drafted, the Committee only took note of the highly relevant arrangements for compensation advanced in the document under consideration, since their final adoption would take place only when the related protocol had been duly discussed and approved by the competent bodies.

55. The Committee took note of the proposals contained in the document and adopted draft resolution 6(XVI).

Progress report on a framework agenda for building and utilizing critical capacities in Africa [agenda item 4(c)]

56. Under this agenda item, the Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.21/5 entitled "Progress report on a framework agenda for building and utilizing critical capacities in Africa". This report was welcomed unanimously by members who considered it pertinent to their countries' development concerns. those which exist, and fully utilizing them, to be of crucial importance if Africa is to be fully integrated into the highly competitive global economic system ushered in the Final Act of the Uruguay Round.

57. The Committee noted that the theme of the sixteenth meeting of TEPCOW and the twenty-first meeting of the Conference of Ministers was building and utilizing critical capacities in Africa, which had also been the theme of last year's Conference of Ministers. It reaffirmed that the missing link to sustained economic growth and development in the African countries is systematic action on building, strengthening and efficiently utilizing critical capacities. The Committee renewed its endorsement of the concept of a broad framework agenda whose objective should be to concentrate efforts and to focus strategies at the national, subregional, continental and international levels, towards the task and objectives of capacity building.

58. It was noted that, for operational purposes, the previous Conference of Ministers had identified eight capacity-building priority areas, notably: institutional support of good governance, human rights, political stability, peace and security; effective socio-economic policy analysis and management; human resources; entrepreneurship in the public and private sectors; physical infrastructures; exploitation of natural resources and diversification of African economies into processing and manufacturing; sustainable food and agricultural production; and mobilization and efficient allocation of financial resources. The framework agenda would propose a regional programme of action whose elements would be the policy measures and activities in each of the priority areas. This programme of action, however, would have to be sufficiently flexible to be implementable by individual member States within the context of their own order of capacity-building priorities. In this regard, the Committee took note of the specific preferences expressed by member States, but also noted that the eight priority areas in the framework agenda were not ranked in any order, leaving this up to individual States. This framework agenda would propose concrete measures for monitoring the implementation of the programme of action at the regional level.

59. The Committee noted that the document under discussion was only an interim report on the progress made in implementing resolution 771 (XXIX) of the previous Conference of Ministers which had mandated the secretariat, inter alia, to carry out further studies to strengthen the framework agenda and to propose modalities for the mobilization of resources in support of the programme of action. In this regard, a number of short-term actions had been taken in fulfilment of the resolution; notably, study missions had been carried out in Ghana (policy-analytic capacities); Mauritius (human resources development); Morocco

resources and industry). However, missions were yet to be carried out in two priority areas - institutions for good governance, and financial resource mobilization and allocation.

60. It was noted that the criterion for selecting the countries for study missions had been the insights and experiences which could be transferred to other African countries in specific areas of capacity building. However, it was felt that more countries should have been included in the sample of countries visited. To this end, country case studies were expected to provide answers to a number of questions. These included: what policy measures and activities were being implemented in the human, institutional and infrastructural dimensions of capacity building in a specific priority area; how relations between the government and the private sector had evolved; what channels of communication between the two had been put in place to enhance their collaboration in the promotion of accelerated and sustainable development; what measures were being implemented to improve the policy environment; to what extent markets were involved in setting prices and distortions had been eliminated; what measures were under way to improve efficiency, productivity and international competitiveness, etc.?

61. The Committee noted that the guiding principles which will underline the proposed programme of action are, *inter alia*, a hospitable political and social environment; a conducive macro- and micro-economic policy environment; the need to re-define the role and responsibilities of the government *vis à vis* those of the people, their institutions, and the private sector; regional economic cooperation and integration; the imperative of environmental sustainability; the need to take consciously into account the gender dimension in capacity building; the objective of reducing poverty by targeting the disadvantaged socio-economic constituencies; and the need to boost the mobilization of financial resources from domestic and external sources and improve their allocation to competing areas of capacity building. Innovative approaches were called for to mobilize resources and to involve local communities fully in building capacities in their own localities. Kenya indicated that it was prepared to share its experience in resource mobilization with other African countries. It was also imperative to identify existing capacities and to put them to full use before rushing to create new capacities. Each of the priority areas would be underpinned by these principles.

62. It was noted that the programme of action for capacity building, which would consist of policy measures and activities implemented at national, subregional and continental levels, would need to be underpinned by a programme of technical cooperation. Such a programme would involve Africa's external bilateral partners, agencies and programmes of the United Nations system including the Bretton Woods institutions, other multilateral organizations and external non-governmental organizations involved in Africa's development. It was therefore necessary to base the framework agenda on a broad consensus and partnership among all those expected to play a significant role in its implementation at all levels. In this light, the Committee considered the proposed time-frame for the finalization of the framework agenda. This requires in-house seminars at the secretariat to be initiated by the end of June 1995; an inter-agency meeting to review the draft framework agenda by July; a meeting of an ad hoc group of African and non-African experts by early September; circulation of the draft document to the member States by October for their observations, comments and proposals for further improvement; finalization in December 1995; and official launching of the framework agenda in January 1996. The Committee observed that, while the proposed time-frame was useful in motivating the secretariat to speed up the completion of the framework agenda, nonetheless, it may prove over-optimistic.

63. It also underscored the importance of regional cooperation in different priority areas of capacity building, such as in building expertise in economic and social development planning and management, human resources development through training, project execution, and in science and technology including information and telematics. In this regard, the Committee noted that Egypt had established an Information and Decision-support Centre that is ready to cooperate in putting Africa on the "information super-highway" and which had expertise in informatics, debt management, socio-economic database management and its application to policy making. Centres of excellence such as this one would play a pivotal role in the sharing of experiences among African countries through training, and in pooling resources for capacity building. Another approach noted by the Committee in this regard was the establishment of networks linking national capacity-building institutions, for instance, policy institutes which are being established at national level with initial support from the Harare-based African Capacity-Building Foundation (ACBF). The Committee endorsed the proposal to establish "think-tanks" at the national, subregional and continental levels, which would address Africa's development problems and advise on policies. Noting that ILO had assisted some African countries to set up employment networks, the Committee observed that similar networks could be set up, first at national level, then at subregional and continental levels, in the capacity-building priority areas.

64. The Committee also stressed the human capacity-building dimension of institution building in the area of national development management. It was noted that under-motivation, poor remuneration often below the cost of living, inadequate incentives and, sometimes, late pay, all create poor attitude to work, indiscipline, divided attention to duty as public sector

employees seek supplementary sources of income, high rate of staff turn-over and the brain-drain. The result was poor personnel productivity, poor socio-economic management, and concomitant loss of international competitiveness. It was noted that while highly trained Africans were either under-utilized or migrating to Europe and America, over 100,000 foreign technical experts annually were employed in African countries at an estimated cost of $4 billion. In this regard, the Committee urged that much more use should be made of indigenous experts and consultants in bilateral and multilateral programmes of technical cooperation. Increased utilization of African indigenous expertise is essential if critical human skills are to be developed in Africa by learning through doing, and if capacity-building programmes are to be truly owned by African countries; and there is urgent need to address the issues of personnel motivation if such capacities are not to be eroded. The Committee recommended that this problem should be given full attention in the framework agenda.

65. With regard to human resources development, the Committee emphasized the importance of ensuring a high quality of education, geared to equipping school leavers with skills for self-reliance and economic productivity even after acquiring basic education. In view of the fact that the number of engineers, scientists and technicians is an important indicator of the level of economic development through industrialization, the Committee underscored the need for African countries to promote education and training in these areas. Industrial transformation, however, also required efficient infrastructures, such as energy, telecommunications and transport. In this regard, the Committee was of the opinion that, in the framework agenda, capacity building for science and technology should either be elevated to a separate priority area in its own right or it should be given more prominent treatment in the eight identified priority areas. Stress was also placed on the need for African countries to promote the development of their private sectors. In this regard, the Committee took note of the past and ongoing work of ILO and UNIDO in promoting entrepreneurship and industrial development in African countries.

66. The Committee welcomed the offer by UNIDO to collaborate with the ECA secretariat towards the finalization of the framework agenda, particularly in the areas related to capacity building, notably human capacities, entrepreneurship, industrial development, food and agricultural production, and financial resource mobilization. It expected all relevant agencies and organizations of the United Nations system to provide material support to ECA in the finalization of the framework agenda. It also took note of the proposal by UNCTAD that a draft of the framework agenda could be used by the African LDCs as part of their input at the meeting of the High-Level

67. The Committee observed that there was a need to address separately the issues involved in capacity building to boost food and agricultural production and capacity building for rural development, where the latter is broader and encompasses agriculture, rural industry and entrepreneurship.

68. Note was taken of the special needs of the countries which are emerging from years of internecine conflicts which had totally destroyed their essential capacities. As they struggle to restore peace and stability, the task facing such countries was how to rebuild capacities in all the priority areas identified for inclusion in the framework agenda. Problems are primarily faced in mobilizing the massive amounts of resources that are required. Of necessity, such countries have to depend heavily on other African countries and external partners, in view of the total economic dislocation brought about by destructive conflicts. Noting that the framework agenda would provide an essential blue-print for the capacity rehabilitation of the African countries emerging from conflicts, the Committee, therefore, observed that the framework agenda should address the special needs of these countries, with a view to being useful as a reference point in their negotiations with external partners and donors involved in their reconstruction. The Committee also observed that human capacity building offered a new hope to the millions of Africans displaced for long periods of time by conflicts in their homelands, and that this would contribute immensely to reconstruction after the restoration of peace.

69. The Committee welcomed the move of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) in adopting new policy orientation for environment and development in Africa, which laid strong emphasis on critical capacity building for environmental management in order to achieve sustainable development in the region, within the framework of Agenda 21. This required a revitalization of existing structures at the level of member States and within the United Nations system to respond to the demands of promoting environmental awareness in programme implementation. The priority areas for critical capacity building were identified to include environmental economics, accounting and management tools; environmental law, institutions and policies; environmental education and training; and environmental awareness as well as public information. The Committee further noted the efforts of the joint AMCEN secretariat composed of UNEP, ECA and OAU in providing the necessary support for the implementation of these programmes.

70. The Committee urged that the framework agenda should be linked to all the existing important initiatives for the development of Africa, such as the Cairo Agenda for action for relaunching Africa's economic and social development as well as the

was noted that the Cairo Agenda, which addresses the issue of how African countries can increase their reliance on their own resources, provides the necessary political framework, while the framework agenda addresses the technical and policy issues of capacity building. The Committee also recommended that the framework agenda be launched in the context of the United Nations at Fifty which will be observed at the end of this year, 1995.

71. The Committee took note of the progress report and adopted draft resolution 7(XVI).

PART II
REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

Preparation and follow-up to regional and international conferences and programmes [agenda item 5(a)]

72. Under this agenda item, the Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.21/6 Parts I and II and Addendum I entitled "Preparations for and follow-up to international conferences and programmes" which was the background document to agenda items 5(a) (i) to (viii).

Special session of OAU Ministers on Africa's economic and social questions [agenda item 5(a)(i)]

73. Under this agenda item, the secretariat gave an account of the seventeenth extraordinary session of the Council of Ministers of OAU, held in Cairo on 27 and 28 March 1995, and, at the request of a delegation, the Cairo Agenda for Action, which was adopted at the session, was distributed. It was indicated that the Cairo Agenda for Action will be submitted to the next Summit of OAU Heads of State and Government for adoption.

International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) [agenda item 5(a)(ii)]

74. Under this agenda item, the Committee noted that the Cairo Programme of Action adopted at the ICPD (1994) had reflected the issues addressed by the Dakar/Ngor Declaration on Population, Family and Sustainable Development adopted at the third African Population Conference (1992). The Committee stressed that the challenge to member States was the implementation of the follow-up actions specified by the two development frameworks.

75. The Committee recalled that the third African Population Conference had established a Follow-up Committee for the implementation of the Dakar/Ngor Declaration. The Follow-up Committee, at its first meeting held in Addis Ababa in March 1994, had directed that two workshops of experts and NGOs be organized to deliberate on the implementation of the recommendations of the Declaration. Preparations were underway by the Joint OAU/ECA/ADB Secretariat to hold the workshops during the second week of June 1995 at the African Development Bank (Abidjan). The recommendations of the workshops would subsequently be transmitted to the member States. The Committee noted that the second session of the Follow-up Committee was scheduled to be held in early 1996.

76. The Committee also noted that the United Nations General Assembly had adopted the ICPD Programme of Action and revitalized the Population Commission to monitor the implementation of the programme. The Committee further noted that the Secretary General of ICPD had established an Inter-Agency Task Force to coordinate the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.

World Summit for Social Development [agenda item 5(a)(iii)]

77. under this agenda item, the Committee observed that the main objectives of the World Summit for Social Development, which was held in March 1995, were to set goals and formulate policies and priority measures to address the concerns of countries in the field of social development. It also noted that the Summit had adopted a declaration and a programme of action containing a number of commitments.

78. Among those commitments made by the Heads of State and Government at the Social Summit in Copenhagen, Denmark, were:

(a) The creation of an enabling economic, political, social, cultural and legal environment for the achievement of social development;

(b) The eradication of poverty;

(c) The development of human resources in Africa and in the least developed countries;

(d) The expansion of productive employment and livelihood;

(e) The promotion of social integration, national cohesion, political peace and stability; and

(f) The mobilization of resources for achieving the programme of action.

79. The Committee noted the measures recommended by the Summit, especially those concerning debt alleviation, particularly in the least developed countries. It noted with satisfaction the spirit of solidarity and understanding within the African Group at all stages of the preparation as well as during the Summit. It also appreciated ECA's support for the African member States.

80. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the African Common Position had a strong influence on the Summit, notably with regard to debt forgiveness and poverty alleviation. The Committee observed that some countries had already started to implement the programme adopted in Copenhagen and urged that national action plans should be developed as soon as possible, where these have not yet been developed.

81. The Committee also noted the commitments of several United Nations specialized agencies and organizations to assist African countries in their efforts to achieve their goals, particularly in areas of employment and health. It recognized the difficulties encountered in obtaining data in the employment sector and appealed to member States and their development partners to pay particular attention to social development in resource allocation.

82. The Committee also stressed the importance of setting up follow-up mechanisms. It was recalled that follow-up mechanisms at the national level should include all the sectors of civil society, and that the Conference of African Ministers responsible for Human Development, together with its Follow-up Committee of Fifteen, should constitute follow-up mechanisms at the regional level. The Committee expressed the hope that ECA would ensure the follow-up of this programme, while taking into account the need to protect the cultural values of the continent. The Committee urged the Joint OAU/ECA/ADB Secretariat to collaborate with United Nations specialized agencies and other partners to translate the action programme into specific projects.

Fourth World Conference on Women [agenda item 5(a)(iv)]

83. Under this agenda item, the Committee noted that, pursuant to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women resolution 36/8 on the preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Africa Regional Conference on Women had been held in Dakar, Senegal, from 16 to 23 November 1994. Prior to that conference, a series of consultations had been held at both subregional and regional levels. Also, an NGO forum had been held from 13 to 15 November 1994. The Committee took note of the African Platform for Action and the African Common Position on the Advancement of Women in Africa which was adopted by the Dakar Conference.

84. The Committee took note of the efforts made by United Nations agencies in preparation for the fourth World Conference on Women and underlined the need for effective African participation at the Beijing Conference.

Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) [agenda item 5(a)(v)]

85. Under this agenda item, the Committee considered progress made in the preparation of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II).

86. The Committee took note of the African Common Position which was adopted by the extraordinary Meeting of African Ministers responsible for Human Settlements in the African region held in Nairobi, Kenya on 30 March 1994. The Committee also took note of the preparatory work for Habitat II and urged ECA to coordinate and facilitate regional activities, serve as a liaison centre and finally enable member States with limited institutional and financial resources to participate effectively in the preparatory process and the conference.

Mid-term review of the implementation of the Paris Declaration and Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s [agenda item 5(a)(vi)]

87. Under this agenda item, the Committee noted the progress made by African least developed countries in the implementation of the Paris Declaration and Programme of Action. It also noted that a high-level intergovernmental meeting will conduct a mid-term review of the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries at New York from 26 September to 6 October 1995. The Committee decided to entrust a subcommittee of TEPCOW with the task of formulating an African common position to be submitted at the New York meeting. The subcommittee which was open to the participation of all countries, had a core group consisting of Benin, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Malawi, the Niger, Rwanda, the Sudan, Uganda and Zambia.

Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF) [agenda item 5(a)(vii)]

88. Under this agenda item, the Committee noted that UN-NADAF was adopted by the General Assembly in December 1991 as a framework for full partnership between Africa and the international community. The Committee further noted that the main conclusions of this report had been submitted to the twenty-ninth session of the Commission (document E/ECA/CM.20/3). The Committee underscored the importance of the United Nations system as Africa's full partner in the implementation of UN-NADAF, and noted that the United Nations system had undertaken to strengthen its coordination and harmonization role both within the framework of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force (UN-IATF) and the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC).

Mid-term evaluation of the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (UNTACDA II) [agenda item 5(a)(viii)]

89. Under this agenda item, the Committee observed that the programme of UNTACDA II had been implemented since 1991, with the long-term aim of establishing an efficient integrated transport and communication system as a basis for the physical integration of Africa, so as to facilitate traffic movement, foster trade and enable the achievement of self-sustained economic development as envisaged in the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community. The Committee noted that the evaluation of the programme of the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade showed unsatisfactory results due mainly to the low priority given by member States to the projects approved under the programme. Furthermore, it seems that the national coordination committees did not function adequately due to lack of coordination between the officials of transport and communications and those of other ministries in the member States.

90. The Committee noted that the major observations and conclusions of the mid-term evaluation of UNTACDA II made the ministers concerned put forward the following major recommendations:

(a) The UNTACDA II programme should be focused on regional and subregional activities taking into account their specificity in terms of physical integration;

(b) UNTACDA II should be fully internalized at all levels according to availability of identified resources;

(c) Activities within UNTACDA II should be scaled down to realistic levels;

(d) Efforts should be concentrated only on the most important activities of common benefit to most countries;

(e) Greater reliance should be placed on the pooling of internal resources for programme implementation; and

(f) An appeal should be made to the United Nations General Assembly and other agencies to supplement ECA regular budget resources for the implementation of UNTACDA II activities.

91. The Committee urged member States to endorse the resolution approved by the African Ministers of Transport and Communications which sought additional resources from the regular budget to implement UNTACDA II activities and to ratify the Statute of the Trans-African Highway Bureau.

92. The Committee took note of document E/ECA/CM.21/6 in the light of the above observations and adopted draft resolution 8(XVI) and the Special Memorandum on the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries for the 1990s.

Trade, development finance and regional cooperation [agenda item 5(b)]

93. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.21/7 entitled "Reviving private investment in Africa: Policies, strategies and programmes". The Committee emphasized the importance of investment in promoting economic growth and employment. It therefore called for practical measures to be undertaken to promote both domestic and foreign direct investment.

94. The Committee observed that improving the investment climate in Africa would invariably require the right macroeconomic policy frameworks to provide the public sector with a proper role of: defining and implementing proper incentive packages; tackling the problems of domestic and external debt and its impact on investment flows to Africa; optimizing on rates of investment; increasing public investment towards human development and infrastructure; building reliability through political stability, predictable sets of rules and regulations and continuity in the supply of foreign exchange for imported inputs and transfers; enhancing financial intermediation; enlarging markets in order to take advantage of economies of scale, including promotion of regionalism in Africa; and trying to improve the world's perception of Africa by minimizing factors which contribute to the negative image of the continent. The Committee noted that member States had already adopted most of the measures which were essential to creating "an enabling environment" for the promotion of both domestic and foreign direct investment.

95. The Committee noted that while foreign direct investment flows in other regions of the world had increased significantly in recent years, Africa had not been a major beneficiary. Portfolio capital flows to Africa were virtually absent and private direct investment modest. The Committee therefore urged African countries to put in place the necessary measures that would promote investment, in particular to ensure political stability, which is a pre-condition for domestic and foreign direct investment.

96. The Committee took note of the information provided to it concerning an international conference/-forum on "Reviving private investment in Africa: Challenges and opportunities", to be held in Accra, Ghana from 7 to 10 November 1995 under the auspices of four African Heads of State and Government. The forum would be organized by ECA, in collaboration with UNDP, UNIDO, UNCTAD, the Centre for Development of Industry (CDI), the World

Bank, ADB, OAU, the Africa Business Round Table, EU, the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), the Global Coalition for Africa (GCA) and other agencies. The Forum was intended to bring together African government officials, African private sectors, United Nations agencies, foreign governments and private investors, scholars and academicians of international business to exchange views and ideas on how to revive private investments in Africa. The "African capital markets forum" was also expected to be officially launched during the conference as an avenue for promoting the development and cooperation of capital markets in Africa.

97. The Committee also took note of information concerning the Private Sector Forum of UNIDO to be organized in collaboration with UNDP and ECA during the forthcoming Conference of African Ministers of Industry to be held in Gaborone, Botswana in June 1995.

98. The Committee took note of the progress made by various countries in promoting private investment, including adoption of macroeconomic stabilization programmes in order to provide an enabling environment, revisions in investment codes, creation of investment promotion offices, establishment of export processing zones, financial sector reforms, creation of "one-stop" investment offices for processing private sector investments, and implementation of privatization programmes. Some participants cited examples of the shift that had occurred in their countries from "centrally planned" economies to "market-oriented" ones." In this connection, the Committee urged member States to provide the ECA secretariat with updated information on their private investment policies and strategies.

99. The Committee emphasized the importance of implementing the recommendations made by the secretariat in trying to revive both domestic and foreign direct investment in Africa. On the impact of devaluations on African countries, the Committee called on the secretariat to undertake an analysis of the impact of the last devaluation of the CFA franc on the economies of the Zone, including that on their debt stocks and debt-service payments.

100. While acknowledging the comprehensiveness of the document under consideration, the Committee requested the secretariat to enrich it by including other factors that constituted obstacles and/or constraints to investment in Africa, in particular: the need for land reforms in many African countries; the role of privatization programmes in the development of the private sector and problems relating to implementation of such programmes in Africa; the importance of domestic investment in promoting the private sector; the issue of internal debt and its impact on Africa's development process; and the role South-South cooperation could play in the development of the private sector in Africa.

101. The Committee took note of the report in the light of the above observations and adopted draft resolution 9(XVI).

Human development in Africa, 1995 report [agenda item 5(c)]

102. The Committee considered the document entitled "Human development in Africa, 1995 report" (E/ECA/CM.21/8) which covered a host of issues ranging from the concept and measurements of human development, the state of human development in Africa, the goals of the African child, health and basic education for all in Africa by the year 2000 and the challenges and prospects ahead.

103. The Committee observed that the report was the first of what would constitute a series of reports to appear biennially and dealing specifically with the issues related to human development in the continent. The Committee noted that the objective of the current report was to inform policy makers, academics, the international community and those involved in the development task about the human situation in Africa with a view to galvanizing them into action. The Committee further noted that the document aspired to devote special attention to an examination of policies and strategies of human development with a view to helping evolve a uniquely African perspective that would draw on global experience but also rooted in African realities.

104. The Committee noted that although the concept of human development was perceived to be straightforward, its measurement was a complicated task. The measurement encompassed people's choices in every sphere of life. It was also noted that Africa had contributed significantly to the crystallization of human development concept and measurement through a series of publications, such as the Lagos Plan of Action, the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation, the Khartoum Declaration on Human-centred Development and the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes (AAF-SAP).

105. In considering the importance of human development as the centre of the development process, the Committee underscored the importance of the well-being of both children and women as key issues that needed to be tackled simultaneously since the fate of children was inseparable from that of mothers. With regard to the issues related to health and education, the Committee noted the need to restore or improve the quality of basic services such as basic health care and education and underscored the need to focus on and address the gender gaps in terms of service access and social, economic and political status that remain particularly wide in Africa.

106. The Committee observed that, while a series of human development reports had been planned to

appear biennially, consideration should be given to make it an annual publication. If necessary, ECA should seek financial resources to achieve this objective. The Committee also noted that other agencies should take part in the future preparation of the report with a view to covering a range of issues related to the human development situation in the continent.

107. Finally, the Committee underscored the importance of monitoring the human situation in Africa on a continuous basis so as to keep track of both advances and setbacks. Although this would be a very difficult task due to very unreliable, inconsistent and unavailability of up-to-date statistics, African Governments would have to take the responsibility to set up, develop and refine on a continuous basis databases on their social situations in their respective countries. It was noted that the document presented was a first tentative effort to stimulate action in that direction.

108. The Committee took note of the report and the proposals contained therein and adopted resolution 10(XVI).

Establishment of an African bank for women: Interim report [agenda item 5(d)]

109. Under this agenda item, the Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.21/9 entitled "Economic empowerment of women: Interim report on an African bank for women and promotion of women entrepreneurship".

110. The Committee noted the efforts made by ECA to strengthen the economic empowerment of African women, in particular the convening of a meeting of experts on the practical modalities for establishing an African bank for women. The Committee noted that the experts had recommended the establishment of a regional institution called "Africa Women's Bank", with affiliates at the national level in which women would hold majority shares. Capital would be mobilized within the region to ensure the viability of the institution.

111. The Committee noted that the establishment of such a bank had gained prominence in nearly all African countries. In countries such as Nigeria, Uganda and Kenya, interested promoters had already pledged an investment of US$125,000 in capital. The Committee further noted the selection criteria for hosting the bank's headquarters and Uganda's bid to host the apex regional body.

112. The Committee reviewed the practical modalities for the establishment and management of such a bank; the technical aspects of setting it up; the bank's capital formation; the need to involve governments in the bank; and promotional campaign for the proposed project. The Committee stressed the need to consider rural women as main target groups in the context of this bank and that efforts should be geared toward their effective integration into the process. While underlining the importance of the proposed bank, the Committee felt that the feasibility study had not made an in-depth analysis of why the existing banks have failed to meet the financial needs of women and deemed it necessary to base the establishment of this bank on a study which would ascertain its impact on the advancement of the African women in general, and on the advancement of "target" African women who really need assistance, in particular.

113. The Committee underlined the importance of drawing from African and non-African experiences, including relevant studies conducted by some international organizations, in the area of women's accessibility to credit. The experiences of Grameen Bank of Bangladesh, Egypt and UNDP-UNIDO initiatives in Guinea were cited as examples of banks which had succeeded in meeting women's needs at the grass-roots level in the rural areas. The Committee noted the suggestion to lower the price of one unit of shares which had been proposed at US$10. It was felt that at the prevailing exchange rates in many African countries of the proposed price of unit share was too high.

114. Noting that the economic situation of member countries had changed since the initiative to establish a bank for women was first proposed, the Committee recommended that the orientation of the proposed bank and its viability should be re-examined. Indeed, some members felt that the proposed bank should operate as a development bank channelling credit to those in need, rather than as a commercial bank.

115. Consequently, the Committee requested ECA to conduct a new study which would spell out the legal aspects, the bank's structure and capital, taking into account the needs of women economic operators. It requested the delegations which so desired to send their observations on this issue to the secretariat. The Committee further requested ECA to organize a workshop of experts in charge of financing and banking institutions to examine the findings of a more comprehensive feasibility study and make recommendations which would be considered in the final study. These recommendations would enable the next Conference of Ministers to decide on the establishment of an African bank for women.

116. With regard to the promotion of women entrepreneurship, the Committee recognized that women played a significant role in the economies of their countries and stressed the need to provide full support to women entrepreneurs, especially rural women who are more disadvantaged in access to credit and yet they produce 60 per cent of food in Africa. The Committee noted that the all-African and North American women's show and exhibition of exportable products and services would be held in Accra, Ghana,

in June/July 1996. It encouraged all countries to participate in this event designed to promote investment opportunities for African women's enterprises.

117. The Committee took note of the report in the light of its deliberations.

Poverty alleviation through sustainable development
[agenda item 5(e)]

118. Under this agenda item, the Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.21/10 entitled "Food and agricultural production, food security and food self-sufficiency in Africa".

119. The Committee noted that food security was a major goal in African socio-economic development. It further stressed the need for African countries to accord priority to agriculture which remains the dominant sector in their economy.

120. The Committee regretted that hunger and poverty were on the increase in the continent. This situation was essentially related to a number of fundamental causes, such as inappropriate policies pursued by African countries, lack of technological innovation, institutional weaknesses and lack of basic physical infrastructures. Other factors which contributed to the food crisis were high population growth rates, environmental degradation, drought, other unfavourable climatic conditions, and desertification, political instabilities, war and civil disturbances.

121. The Committee recognized that improvement in food security would entail effective and appropriate mix of policies in several key areas, including:

(a) The promotion of local food production, processing and marketing in a manner which would encourage self-reliance within the region;

(b) The improvement of availability and effectiveness of agricultural inputs, delivery systems as well as putting in place effective credit programmes in order to enable producers to improve productivity of both land and labour;

(c) The design and implementation of marketing policies that would improve market effectiveness and efficiency, the terms of trade in favour of agriculture, while allowing flexibility to take into account the international environment; and

(d) The promotion at all levels of greater participation and involvement of the local population in decision-making processes in capacity building and marketing of their products.

122. The Committee further emphasized the urgent need for land reforms to enable potential farmers to acquire long-term land ownership; increased water development and irrigation management systems; crop diversification; and storage facilities at farm level to reduce post-harvest losses. The Committee further emphasized the need for research and training in priority fields and better climatic and early warning systems in order to increase food productivity, drive production cost down, and more essentially, promote diversification through better market information systems.

123. The Committee urged for cooperation in food production and marketing at subregional and regional levels. It was recognized that it would be very difficult for each State, taken individually, to achieve food security. Regional integration was seen as one of the long-term solutions, more especially when it came to specialization and sharing of expenses.

124. Noting that many inputs in food and agricultural production came mainly from industry, the Committee emphasized the need to promote strong linkages between the agricultural and industrial sectors of member States. At the same time, efforts should be made to enhance the quality of food production and processing without which African food and agricultural exports will not compete effectively in world markets. The challenge of the Uruguay Round agreements for African countries was to increase their agricultural and non-agricultural exports.

125. The Committee noted that, in recognition of the important role water plays in food and agriculture production, food security and food self-sufficiency, ECA and WMO organized an International Conference on Water Resources: Policy and Assessment. The objective of the conference was to prepare a strategy for water resources assessment within the context of integrated and comprehensive development and management of water resources for socio-economic development on a sustainable basis. The strategy recommended to the member States, United Nations, African regional and subregional organizations and external support agencies, actions in the areas of management capacity building, promotion and creation of awareness of the capacity of the hydrological services and value of hydrological data, regional and subregional initiatives and responses and a new role for external support agencies. The Committee proposed that a resolution on the subject of water resources development and management be submitted to it for consideration.

126. The Committee took note of the reports in the light of the observations made and adopted resolution 11(XVI).

PART III
STATUTORY ISSUES

Issues from the subsidiary organs, sectoral bodies and governing boards of ECA-sponsored institutions calling for action by the Conference of Ministers (agenda item 6)

127. The Committee considered documents E/ECA/CM.21/11 and E/ECA/CM.21/11/Add.1 entitled "Issues from the subsidiary organs, sectoral bodies and governing boards of ECA-sponsored institutions calling for action by the Conference of Ministers". This document contained resolutions, recommendations and decisions adopted by the subsidiary organs that had held meetings since the last Conference of Ministers in May 1994 and were being brought to the attention of the Commission for consideration and adoption or information.

128. The following subsidiary organs had held meetings since the last Conference of Ministers: the Intergovernmental Committees of Experts of the Commission's five MULPOCs; the Conference of African Ministers of Transport and Communications; the Africa Regional Coordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development (ARCC); and the Governing Board of the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI).

129. The Committee referred the resolutions that were recommended for adoption by the Conference of Ministers emanating from these meetings to the subcommittee on resolutions it had established, except the resolution on the establishment of a regional ECA office for East Africa which had been proposed by the Gisenyi-based MULPOC. The Committee observed that not all member States of the East African subregion had been consulted on this proposed office. It, therefore, recommended that the resolution be withdrawn.

130. In considering the decisions of the Governing Board of UNAFRI regarding the financial situation of the Institute, the proposed change in the composition of the Board and the rotation of its chairmanship, the Committee urged member States to establish mechanisms for making timely remittances to UNAFRI, including the payment of arrears within a reasonable time, and urged governments which had not yet acceded to the Statutes of the Institute to do so. The Committee also appealed to the Administrator of UNDP to renew UNDP's financial support to the Institute. The Committee further agreed that the chairmanship of UNAFRI would henceforth be held by member States of the UNAFRI Governing Board on a rotational basis. The Committee endorsed the changes in the Institute as recommended by the Board. The recommendation regarding the rotation of the chairmanship of UNAFRI applied only to that institution. The decision on the arrangement regarding the office of chairman of other sponsored institutions was left to their governing boards.

131. The Committee took note of the document and adopted draft resolutions 1(XVI), 2(XVI), 3(XVI), 4(XVI) and 5(XVI).

PART IV
PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES OF THE COMMISSION

Proposed organizational structure and programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1996-1997 [agenda item 7(a)]

132. Under this agenda item, the Committee considered the new organizational chart of the secretariat of the Commission and document E/ECA/CM.21/12 entitled "Programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1996-1997".

133. The Acting Executive Secretary explained that the new organizational structure had been the subject of protracted reflection by ECA's management and the relevant authorities at United Nations Headquarters. The structure had now been approved and would soon be effected along with the necessary redeployment of personnel. The chart was put before the Committee for information. It complemented the reorganization of the programme structure and the intergovernmental machinery of the Commission that had been carried out previously as part of the ongoing reform of the structure, procedures and processes of the Commission to make it a more effective instrument for assisting member States to tackle their socio-economic development problems.

134. The proposed programme of work and priorities of the Commission for the biennium 1996-1997 as contained in document E/ECA/CM.21/12 was based on the new organizational structure and the related resource distribution. The Committee took note of the substantive thrust of the proposed programme of work whose underlying objective was to consolidate the Commission's efforts to assist member States to build critical capacities for development. Through the various activities proposed in the nine substantive subprogrammes, the proposed work programme also aimed at addressing such emergent cross-cutting issues as the challenge of privatization and enterprise development; managing reconstruction and rehabilitation; cyclical drought, food security and agricultural sustainability; and making Africa more competitive in the new international economic order.

135. The Committee also noted that the objectives of the programme would be pursued through a mix of services including analytical research, policy advice and technical assistance including direct advisory services to member States, conferences, seminars and group training as well as field projects.

136. The Committee observed that the proposed programme did not pay adequate attention to conflict resolution and urged the secretariat to work more closely with OAU on this aspect.

137. The Committee noted the improvements in the presentation of the work programme, including the efforts made at achieving internal consistency among programmed outputs and the increased use of evaluation results in programme formulation and implementation. It urged the secretariat to expand and update its evaluation methods in line with current developments in the field of evaluation. It expressed doubt as to the effectiveness of entrusting the activities of particular subprogrammes to several organizational units as was intended in the new organizational structure.

138. Several delegations questioned the implied redistribution of the MULPOCs (subregional offices) in the proposed programme of work. They sought clarification as to the membership and resource implications of the proposed redistribution. It was explained that no decision had been made on the redistribution of the MULPOCs. The resources and activities proposed under each of the MULPOCs would remain as per the existing distribution. Meanwhile, the secretariat would consult member States and prepare a report on the desirability and possibilities of a rationalization of the distribution and membership of the MULPOCs for consideration by the next Conference of Ministers.

139. The Committee regretted the time constraint under which it had to discuss the 1996-1997 work programme and requested that in future, this type of document be sent to member States for review and comments in due time. It further urged that the agenda of the meetings should be shorter so as to allow for more in-depth studies to be prepared in good time for the meetings.

140. The Committee suggested that the theme for the annual Conference of Ministers should be set by the Conference at its meeting in the previous year. This would help guide the work of the secretariat and ensure proper preparations for the annual meetings.

141. The Committee also proposed that there should be enhanced communication between the Conference and the African Group at the General Assembly and its main committees and principal organs such as CPC and ECOSOC. This was deemed important to ensure continuity in Africa's position on major issues.

142. The Committee endorsed the programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1996-1997 and took note of the new organizational structure in the light of the above observations. It also adopted draft resolution 12(XVI).

Programme evaluation at ECA [agenda item 7(b)]

143. Under this agenda item, the Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.21/13 entitled "Progress report on programme evaluation in ECA".

144. At its previous meeting in 1994, the Committee had considered self-evaluation reports on the following subprogrammes: marine affairs (non-living resources); least developed, land-locked and island developing countries; environment and development; trade, development and cooperation; natural resources and energy, including new and renewable sources of energy. The Committee had also considered reports on the in-depth evaluation of the development issues and policies programme, including the MULPOCs and the Pan-African Development Information System (PADIS), and programme 45: Africa's critical situation, recovery and development.

145. The Committee took note of the progress made in the implementation of the various recommendations on each of the above-mentioned evaluations. It urged the secretariat to make every effort to ensure that the recommendations were fully implemented.

146. The Committee took note of the document in the light of the observations made above.

Strengthening the operational capacity of ECA's programme of technical cooperation under UNTFAD (agenda item 8)

147. Under this agenda item, the Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.21/14 entitled "Pledging Conference for the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD)".

148. The Committee noted the importance of UNTFAD, whose objective was to mobilize resources from African States and their development partners, through voluntary pledges needed to implement operational activities of ECA not financed under the regular budget of the United Nations. The Committee noted that US$12 million had been pledged since the establishment of UNTFAD, out of which $10.5 million had been actually disbursed. The Committee also noted the projects financed from UNTFAD resources over the 1994-1995 biennium.

149. The Committee noted with concern that, since 1987, the number of pledging countries and organizations as well as the value of pledges had been constantly declining. At the same time, arrears of unpaid pledges have grown.

150. Given these problems and the economic and financial situation of African member States, the secretariat made the following proposals for revitalizing UNTFAD for the Committee's consideration:

(a) That a larger number of African countries and development partners should pledge to the Fund;

(b) That arrears of contributions as well as new pledges be paid into the Fund as a matter of utmost urgency;

(c) That member States having financial difficulties might propose to the ECA secretariat a permanent schedule for the settlement of arrears or their outright cancellation;

(d) That African member States could commit themselves to appropriating on a voluntary basis some percentage of their national budgets for payment to the Fund; and

(e) That ECA pledging conferences held every other year be merged with the United Nations Pledging Conference held every year at New York. This would increase the number of pledging countries and organizations and give ECA the opportunity to have a pledging conference every year.

151. While recognizing the financial difficulties that confront some African States, the Committee, nonetheless, urged that countries honour their pledges and recommended that those countries in arrears pay up. Member States having difficulties in paying their arrears were encouraged to negotiate with the ECA secretariat the phased payment of the arrears. The Committee felt that the proposal to allocate a certain percentage of member States' budgets and national IPFs to UNTFAD could only be considered on a voluntary basis.

152. The Committee took note that the next UNTFAD Pledging Conference would be held on 3 May 1995 and requested member States to participate actively in that conference.

153. The Committee congratulated Mr. Ali B. Tall, Chief, Technical Assistance Coordination and Operations Office of ECA, on his election by the United Nations General Assembly as a member of the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit. The Committee moved a note of thanks for his 19 years of dedicated service to ECA. In reply, Mr. Tall expressed to his Committee his appreciation for the honour of serving the Commission and the entire continent.

154. The Committee took note of the report and requested the ECA secretariat to update the annex to the document by showing the current status of member States contributions. It adopted draft resolution 13(XVI).

Any other business (agenda item 9)

155. Under this agenda item, a delegation commented on the poor state of facilities in the Plenary Hall, in particular the conference interpretation equipment. The Acting Executive Secretary assured the Committee that efforts were being made to improve the functioning of the equipment at Africa Hall. He looked forward to the opening of the new conference centre early next year when state-of-the-art facilities would be at the disposal of delegations.

Date and venue of the seventeenth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole (agenda item 10)

156. The Committee noted that the practice has been for the meetings of the Conference of Ministers to be held at the headquarters of the Commission in Addis Ababa and in alternate years in the capital of a member State, upon request. With the prospective opening of the new conference centre early next year, it was proposed that the next meeting of the Conference be held at the Commission's headquarters.

Adoption of the report (agenda item 11)

157. Under this agenda item, the chairmen of the subcommittees on resolutions and on the Mid-term Global Review of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s made presentations on the work of their respective subcommittees.

158. The Committee took note of the presentations. It then adopted the present report and the draft resolutions as well as the draft memorandum by the Conference of Ministers on the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s as contained in annexes I and II respectively.

159. In considering the draft resolutions proposed for adoption by the Conference of Ministers, the Committee decided that, in view of the importance of food security in the region as a whole, an additional resolution on food security in Africa should be drafted and submitted directly to the Conference for its consideration.

Closure of the meeting (agenda item 12)

160. Just before the meeting was closed, the Acting Executive Secretary drew the attention of the Committee to a note that had been circulated on the rationalization and harmonization of ECA-sponsored institutions. The note indicated, among other things, that the Ad hoc Committee of 10 member States could not convene on two successive occasions for lack of a quorum to consider the comments on the ECA study on the rationalization and harmonization of the institutions (document E/ECA/CM.20/21) that had been received from a limited number of countries. The Acting Executive Secretary invited the Conference to take a decision on the issue.

161. In his closing remarks, the Acting Executive Secretary thanked the participants and observers for their contribution. He was particularly impressed by the depth and seriousness of the deliberations of the Committee. The secretariat, he said, was most encouraged by the pertinence of the recommendations and the outcome of the meeting generally. He expressed gratitude to the bureau and to the substantive and technical staff who helped make the meeting a success.

162. The Chairman of the Committee, in turn, thanked his colleagues in the bureau and all the representatives for their collaboration. He also thanked the Acting Executive Secretary and the entire secretariat for their support.

163. He then declared the meeting closed.

Annex II

MEETINGS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES HELD DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW (6 MAY 1994 - 3 MAY 1995)

Body and officers	Meeting	Document symbol
Conference of African Ministers of Transport and Communications Chairman: Kenya Rapporteur: Congo	Tenth meeting 20-21 March 1995 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	E/ECA/TCD/MIN/95/100
Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the Tangier-based MULPOC Chairman: Morocco Rapporteur: Algeria	Twelfth meeting 13-16 March 1995 Tangier, Morocco	CEA/TNG/MULPOC/CIE/XII/10/Rev.1
Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the Lusaka-based MULPOC Chairman: Botswana Rapporteur: Mauritius	Third meeting 21-24 March 1995 Gaborone, Botswana	ECA/MULPOC/LUS/ICE/III/20
Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the Niamey-based MULPOC Chairman: Benin Rapporteur: Burkina Faso	Fourteenth meeting 27-31 March 1995 Cotonou, Benin	ECA/MIE/NIA/XIV/95/19
Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the Gisenyi-based MULPOC Chairman: Zaire Rapporteur: Burundi	Third meeting 18-21 April 1995 Addis Ababa	CEA/GSY/MUL/CIE/III
Meeting of the Africa Regional Coordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development Chairperson: A. Kane (Honorarium) Rapporteur: Uganda	Sixteenth meeting 20-22 April 1995 Addis Ababa	E/ECA/ACW/ARCC/XVI/95/9
Meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole Chairman: Ethiopia Rapporteur: Sierra Leone	Sixteenth meeting 24-28 April 1995 Addis Ababa	E/ECA/CM.21/16

Annex III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Symbol	Title
E/ECA/TPCW.16/1/Rev.1	Provisional agenda
E/ECA/TPCW.16/1/Add.1	Annotated provisional agenda
E/ECA/CM.21/1/Rev.2	Provisional agenda
E/ECA/CM.21/1/Add.1	Annotated provisional agenda
E/ECA/CM.21/2	Issues before the Conference
E/ECA/CM.21/3	Report on the economic and social situation in Africa, 1995
E/ECA/CM.21/4	Implementation of the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community: Progress made and prospects
E/ECA/CM.21/5	Progress report on a framework agenda for building and utilizing critical capacities in Africa
E/ECA/CM.21/6 (Part I, Part II and Part II/Add.1) and Annex	Preparations for and follow-up to regional and international conferences and programmes
E/ECA/CM.21/7	Reviving private investments in Africa: Policies, strategies and programmes
E/ECA/CM.21/8	Human development in Africa, 1995 report
E/ECA/CM.21/9	Economic empowerment of women: Progress report on the proposed African bank for women and promotion of women entrepreneurship
E/ECA/CM.21/10	Food and agricultural production, food security and food self-sufficiency in Africa
E/ECA/CM.21/11 E/ECA/CM.21/11/Add.1	Issues from subsidiary organs, sectoral bodies and governing boards of ECA-sponsored institutions calling for action by the Conference of Ministers
E/ECA/CM.21/12 E/ECA/CM.21/12/Add.1	Proposed organizational structure and programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1996-1997
E/ECA/CM.21/13	Progress report on programme evaluation in ECA
E/ECA/CM.21/14 E/ECA/CM.21/14/Corr.1	Pledging Conference for the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development: Strengthening the operational capacity of ECA's programme of technical cooperation under UNTFAD
E/ECA/CM.21/15	Global mid-term review of the implementation of the Paris Declaration and Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s: A review of progress achieved by the African least developed countries in the implementation of the Paris Declaration and Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s (1990-1994)
E/ECA/CM.21/16	Report of the sixteenth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole
E/ECA/CM.21/CRP.1	Follow-up action on relevant resolutions adopted by the twenty-ninth session of the Commission/twentieth meeting of the Conference of Ministers
E/ECA/CM.21/CRP.2	Resolutions and decisions in the economic and social sectors that are of interest to Africa adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1994 and by the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session